

CHRONICLE



Least Likely To Win Five Grammys and an Oscar

Christopher Cross Sails Back to His Austin Roots by Margaret Moser

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Meet Alexandra.

She's a 16-year old student and dancer. Alexandria grew up on a farm in Minnesota, and now lives in LA with her mom and two rescued chihuahuas. She is wearing the Sheer Rib Long Sleeve Turtleneck in Navy.

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Lost Horizon

A journey both medical and existential

"I've always been crazy and the trouble that it's put me through I've been busted for things that I did, and I didn't do I can't say I'm proud of all of the things that I've done"

— "I've Always Been Crazy,"
Waylon Jennings

Admittedly, there is something repugnant and vainglorious about calling yourself "crazy," especially along the lines laid out in that song, but I lack the vocabulary to offer a much better self-description. It would be foolish to pretend that I ever really write about anything but myself, but at least that unspeakable hubris is somewhat leavened by my attempts to season my prose strongly with self-deprecation.

The morning of Tuesday, Nov. 28, Nick Bararo and his wife, Susan Moffat, tried to reach me by phone. I didn't answer. Nick and *Chronicle* Film Editor Marge Baumgarten had stopped by the day before, when I fear I looked like no one so much as *Eyebeam's* Hank the Hallucination, sinking into the walls and floor, so they were probably right to be concerned. When I didn't pick up the phone the next day, Susan drove over to check on me.

I had been scheduled to go in around 4pm that day for blood tests to accompany a complete physical that was to take place a few days later. Sue volunteered to — rather, insisted on — driving me to the clinic.

Susan and I have been friends since 1971. Unbeknownst to me, she followed me around the campus of Windham College in Putney, Vt., where we were both undergraduates. At the behest of her boyfriend's roommate, she was following me in order to do a short comic-book story featuring me as Answer Man. When she finished the four-page, highly collectible, single-copy issue, we finally met.

To update something Susan wrote — "It's the fall of '81 and I'm in a third-floor Boston walk-up, opening a letter from Louis Black. I've known Louis since college, exactly one decade. Of that, we've spent three years living together, six weeks not speaking, the balance as friends" — it has now been more than four decades since we met. I add that there were more than a few years when she was a writer here and that she has been married to Nick, my partner in the paper (as well as its publisher) and South by Southwest, for two decades.

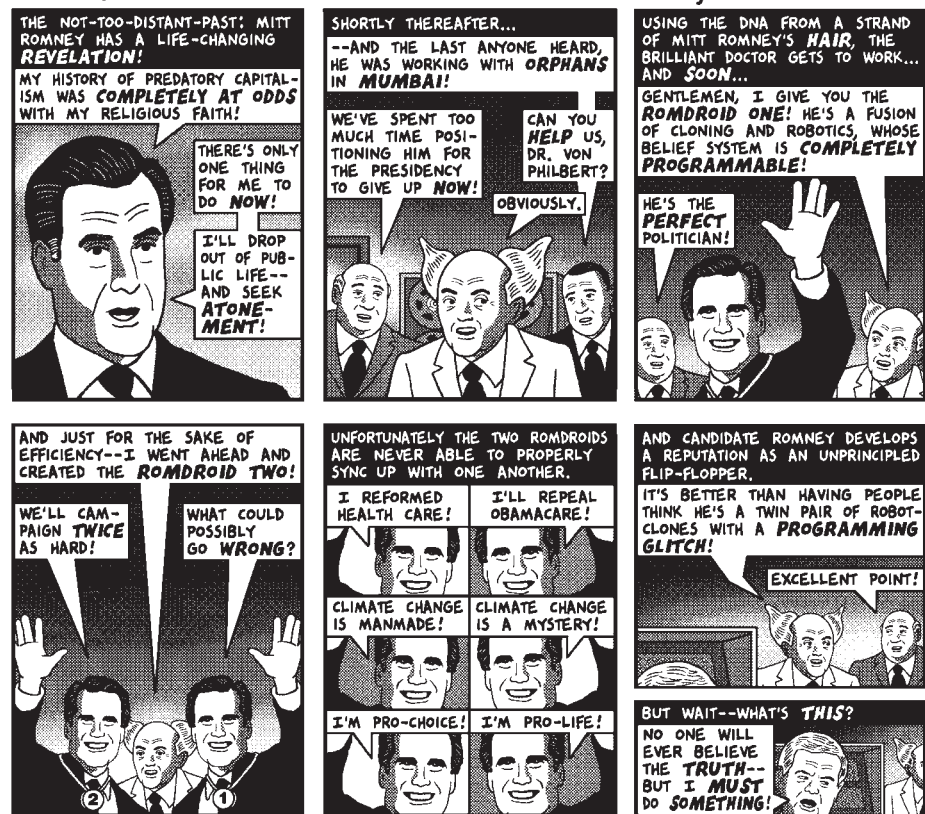
At 2pm on the day of my appointment, I called Susan to say I thought we should go right then — two hours early. As we pulled into the clinic, Susan informed me that they might just send me to the hospital. I started hemming and hawing. Susan did not respond. I was fully aware that this nonresponse itself held meaning: If the doctors wanted to send me to the hospital, I was going.

I didn't even make it to the blood tests. When they did in fact tell me that I was going to the hospital, what I felt was an overwhelming sense of relief.



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Most of my life and for the longest time, decades, I've been heading toward the far horizon. Usually with pedal-to-the-metal intensity, I've unrolled along a linear, sequential path where today was distinctly after yesterday and tomorrow was some place straight ahead, comprehensible but unknowable.

In the last couple of years, my movement has become more radial, if not completely circular. What happened yesterday was no longer that far away — not only from what would happen the next day but from what went down last year. And it's been shrinking, the circle becoming tighter. But I didn't notice.

Sue took me to Seton. In some order after that: I ate a turkey sandwich, I blue-lined, I was taken to the ICU. I was tied down. I suffered congestive heart failure. The multiple decades of physical, emotion-

al, and psychological abuse I've visited on myself all came storming home. For several days, I was under.

Susan came to visit. I urged her to accumulate guns and plans, lots of guns and lots of plans, because "I'm getting out of here." I didn't. The Seton staff is amazing. I fell in love with the hospital's food.

Annie Lewis and Eli, my son, first and foremost, as well as Suzee Brooks, my mom, my sister Fran, Alicia Rutledge, and too many others to enumerate gathered round and rallied me. The Seton staff (almost all — doctors and nurses, physical therapists, and aides! — were just amazing, as I may have mentioned) slowly nursed me back to health. I am not amazing. And I'm stupid. Against everyone's advice, I escaped by signing myself out one Sunday. To everyone's approval, though accompanied by the heartfelt sighs of "When will he ever learn?" the next day I was back in the hospital.

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The staff continued to be superb – “superb” being an understatement! Even when I was back inside my head, I found the food outstanding.

“I’ve always been crazy but it’s kept me from going insane
Nobody knows if it’s something to bless or to blame
So far I ain’t found a rhyme or a reason to change
I’ve always been crazy but it’s kept me from going insane”
– “I’ve Always Been Crazy,”
Waylon Jennings

My dear friend Fred Bayles wrote other friends:

“With Louis it is always an existential question as to whether he is disoriented or simply being Louis, so it took a bunch of emails back and forth before Susan rescued him.

“Susan’s summary offers the details, which suggest the lad wasn’t in very good shape, but is now in good hands.”

Fred wrote to me:

“Dear Wimp,

“Couldn’t tough it out, eh? Had to have a woman take you to the hospital simply because you had a few boo boos and heart failure. This is not the Louis Black of the old days.

“That Louis Black wouldn’t have sought medical ‘help.’ He would have stayed at home ... until he swelled up to three times his normal size. Then he would have wandered the neighborhood, scaring little children and dogs as he cackled with delight.

“The old Louis Black wouldn’t have given a second thought to a bone-deep infection. The old Louis Black would have gnawed off the offending foot, deep fried it, eaten it with Russian dressing and washed it down with Wild Turkey from a jagged bottle he bit open, all the while growing a new appendage. That is the Louis Black we all remember and admired. Not this Nancy girl who pretends to be in a coma just so he can get clean sheets and three squares a day through the feeding tube.

“I feel like I hardly know you anymore.

“Sissy.”


As a result of the outstanding care by everyone, after about three weeks, I left the hospital. I missed the food. A couple of Saturdays later, I returned to the hospital but was released the next day.

I continue to go back for a variety of kinds of aftercare. I feel renewed. I am reignited.

The horizon is too far to really be seen, but after finishing the current rounds of mending, I am gearing up to go racing toward it again, heading there as fast as I can go. I hope to long be chasing it but never quite get to it. ■

When he is not tormenting Louis Black in an entertaining fashion, professor Fred Bayles is director of the Boston University State House Program. He is also the author of Field Guide to Covering Local News: How To Report on Cops, Courts, Schools, Emergencies, and Government and blogs about the growing focus on and need for outstanding, reliable local reporting, as well as how to do it, at www.reportersfieldguide.wordpress.com.

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Postmarks

BIG UPS FROM ABROAD FOR BRUNING, 'CHRONICLE'

Dear Editor,

First, big compliments from Switzerland. *The Austin Chronicle* is a pretty good and cool newspaper in any way!

I just read the amazing, surprising, and positive story from the 2000 "Best of Austin" Critics Picks for Arts & Entertainment about a good friend of mine, Brent Bruning. That's still him all over. And I'll hope he will do that "Best Way To Rock the Boat, Baby: Aquatica" once again.

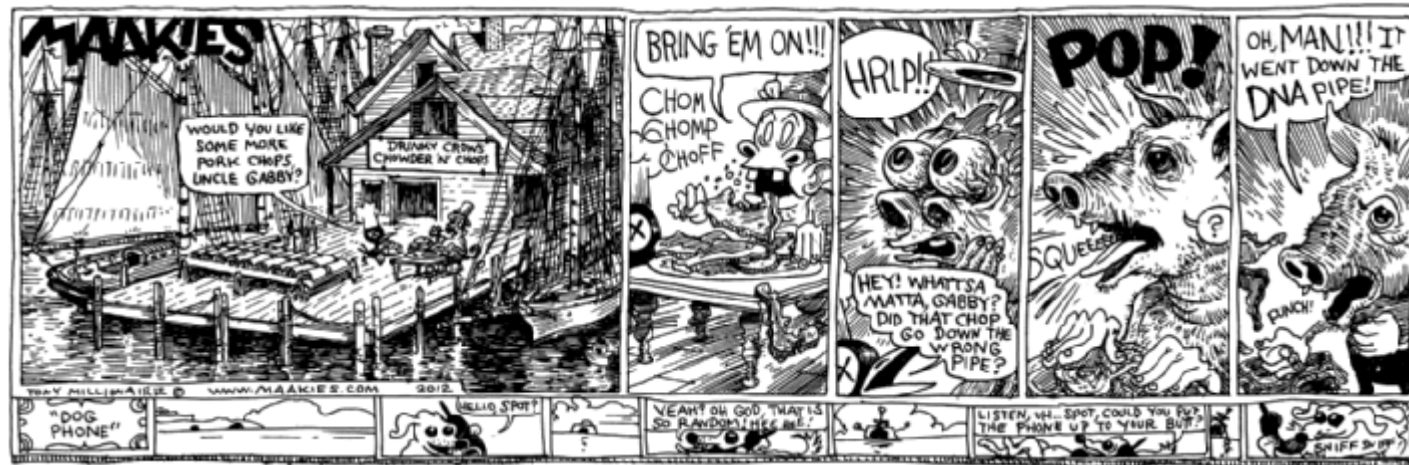
He is still – besides his full-time job as an IT project leader – really active, full of creative ideas, and really talented in different projects and activities like music, charity projects, and projects in arts.

He has lived and worked many years in Switzerland and the city of the real techno scene.

*Kind regards from Zurich, Switzerland,
Susanne Eveline Schibli*

PS.: I have been, among other things, a librarian and work independently (at my own small company in employment services) in Zurich.

Oops! In last week's "Free Week Live Shots" (Jan. 13), Kevin Curtin's first *Chronicle* byline was misspelled in his review of *Girl in a Coma*. Big apologies. His upcoming *Smashing Pumpkins* review won't feature the same mistake.



FORMULA ONE IS JUST NOT GREEN

Dear Editor,

It is laudable that efforts are being made to green the Formula One project, but the sad truth is that F1 cannot ever be very green as long as the water management strategy being forced upon it by the city of Austin remains very, very un-green. This sort of event-driven venue is perfect for distributed reuse. Wastewater would be flush-water dominated, so flush-water recycling – done, for example, at Gillette Stadium where the New England Patriots play – is a natural fit. Other flows could defray irrigation demands. Combine this with rainwater harvesting off the large roof this project will entail and we might approach water independence – through point-of-use generation and reuse, the project lives largely off water falling on it.

Why don't we consider those strategies instead of pumping potable water out there to serve these nonpotable functions? And why don't we save a whole lot of energy that wouldn't be needed to move that water to and from this project? And, in turn, save the water consumed to produce that energy?

Austin Water, however, insists on installing a 3-mile-long wastewater main, draining to a lift station out at the edge of its current system: a line it's telling us ratepayers we have to pay for, to the tune of \$8.1 million. The justification for that? Austin Water says it's a setup to provide wastewater service to this whole basin.

Well, first, it's going to install a whole bunch more high-cost trunk mains. But more importantly, what Austin Water is saying is that it *wants* to manage wastewater over this whole basin on the basis that it's a nuisance and it *has* to go "away." Austin Water appears not interested in how to manage it, right from its point of generation, as a *resource*. Austin Water is, in fact, reported to have said about the very idea of distributed reuse, "Oh no, we don't want to do that."

As long as the city of Austin doesn't want to move toward sustainable water, nothing about this city will ever be truly green.

David Venhuizen, P.E.

PAUL'S BELIEFS NO DELUSION

Dear Editor,

There are so many mischaracterizations, so much misinformation in Jef Cook's letter about the "delusion" of Ron Paul ["Postmarks" online, Jan. 6].

Did you know, Mr. Cook, that the Strategic Defense Initiative, aka Star Wars, touted as a defense shield, was intended to be used as a preemptive strike on the former USSR? The head physicist who designed the program learned this when he was called to a meeting with President Reagan and staff. He said that was the *last* meeting he ever attended with "those insane people" and that the project luckily just petered out.

Did you know that the pilot of a B-52 accidentally dropped two loaded nuclear bombs on South Carolina? Both much more powerful than the atomic bombs used on Japan. One was recovered; the other remains inaccessible, 400 feet underground in a swamp, where it is monitored annually for contamination.

Did you know that both the U.S. and the USSR considered nuking the moon, just to see what would happen? These last two facts are well documented in the book *100 Things You're Not Supposed To Know* by Russ Kick.

Do you know that thousands of our servicemen and women have been poisoned by depleted uranium in Iraq, and that they cannot get adequate medical care? (Same plight for the first responders in the 9/11 attack, but with different ailments from different toxins.) Do you know how many knowledgeable people warned at the outset of Iraq and Afghanistan that neither posed any threat whatsoever to the United States of America?

Do you realize America has been so terrorized by imagined threats that it has surrendered every protection guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, a document which evolved over hundreds of years and by the sacrifice of countless martyrs? And that history shows that once surrendered, civil rights are never voluntarily restored?

*Sincerely,
Kenney C. Kennedy*

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- Austin is #2 on *Forbes'* list of America's Most Innovative Cities. (May 2010)
- Austin ranked first for best economic recovery in the U.S. according to *Forbes.com*. (March 2010)
- Portfolio.com places Austin at the top of the list for "Small Business Vitality Rankings 2010." (January 2010)
- Austin ranked #1 among the nation's 10 best places for young adults. (Portfolio.com, May 2010)
- Portfolio.com lists Austin in the top 10 for Best Quality of Life. (May 2010)
- Austin ranks "low" for Rate of Home Foreclosures according to RealtyTrac's Year-End 2009 Metropolitan Foreclosure Market Report. (January 2010)
- Austin ranks #2 among Best Places to Retire & Row in the U.S. (RowingandCulling.com, January 2010)
- Grubb and Ellis rank Austin "Best City to Invest in Commercial Real Estate." (January 2010)
- Austin is the 9th Easiest City to Find a Job according to Juju.com's Job Search Difficulty Index. (January 2010)
- Austin ranks #2 on *Forbes'* List of Cities Recovering from the Foreclosure Crisis. (December 2009)



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Marchers show their "We Believe" spirit as part of the festivities Jan. 16 in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Continuity or Change

Thinking out loud about Baird vs. Lehmberg

Elsewhere in this issue (see "D.A. Face-Off," p.18), we provide a longer look at what appears to be the most hotly contested Travis County primary race, between incumbent District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg and challenger Charlie Baird. It shapes up not only as a high-profile contest between two highly qualified and combative opponents, but also an opportunity for Democratic voters to consider at length (at exaggerated length, in light of the still-uncertain primary date) what is most important to them in electing a district attorney.

Personally and professionally, I am highly skeptical of prosecutors as a class. Despite what we're told on *Law & Order* (I do enjoy the polymorphous whodunits but try not to confuse them with judicial reality), prosecutors do not invariably defend "the people's interest," and in our adversarial system, they, too, often thumb the scales when they're supposed to be seeking

justice, not counting convictions. (*Chronicle* writer Jordan Smith has made a minor industry of exposing the results of the latter practice.)

That said, Travis County has been relatively fortunate in its elected prosecutors, especially considering the spectacularly negative examples near at hand (see: Williamson County). But the Baird challenge has usefully called into question not only Lehmberg's long tenure as a prosecutor, but

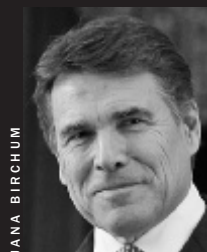
also the institutional operation of the office over the past three decades. However the primary is decided, that reconsideration will be a useful exercise for voters.

Opening Statements

Baird's reputation as a "liberal justice" certainly precedes him, and his heroic days fighting the GOP ascension on the Court of Criminal Appeals were followed recently by a couple years of tangling with several of Ronnie Earle or Lehmberg's prosecutors, usually over alleged "leniency" highly dependent on the eye of the beholder. He has taken on Lehmberg over what he believes is bureaucratic efficiency being valued over justice, as well as a reluctance to innovate that means far too many people are being prosecuted rather than redirected out of the system. Most explosively, Baird charges that Lehmberg's institutional resis-

continued on p.12

QUOTE of the WEEK



"I think Turkey has got to decide whether they want to be a country that projects those Western values that America is all about."

— Gov. Rick Perry, defending his debate comments calling Turkey a nation controlled by "Islamic terrorists"

Headlines

- › **City Council** is off this week, with the next meeting set for Jan. 26, when it will consider zoning changes sought by the Hanover Co. for an upscale **multifamily development** on South Lamar, on what is still a sketchy draft agenda.
- › After a mammoth Jan. 12 public hearing on **Austin Energy's** proposed **rate hike**, Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** savaged the plan to increase residential rates more than those for commercial customers. In a lengthy blog post, he wrote, "I believe we need to protect our long-held covenant that big users should help support small ones." (For more, see "Council Hears From Two Sides of EUC," p.14.)
- › The **Austin Music Commission** met Wednesday night to hear testimony from club owners concerned about recent police enforcement of the city's sound ordinance. And in the run-up to South by Southwest, the city will host an open house today (Thursday, Jan. 19) for those wishing to host a SXSW-related event that may require a permit. See "Civics 101," p.12, for details.
- › The **burn ban** is back on. Due to unseasonably warm and dry weather, on Jan. 17 the Travis County Commissioners Court reinstated the ban on outdoor flames until Feb. 15.
- › For the first time in nearly 40 years, Austin's Downtown **Planned Parenthood** clinic has been shut out of federal pass-through funding to serve thousands of low-income and uninsured clients, among 22 state clinics defunded in the 2011 Legislature's draconian cuts to family planning. (For more on this, see "Targeting Planned Parenthood, State Hurts Texas Women," Newsdesk blog, Jan. 18).
- › The Obama administration Wednesday rejected TransCanada's **Keystone XL pipeline** proposal, at least in its current form. The president had agreed to make a decision on the U.S.-Canada pipeline, currently routed through environmentally sensitive areas, by Feb. 21 as part of December's payroll tax negotiations.
- › As his presidential nomination campaign collapses before the Jan. 21 South Carolina primary, **Rick Perry** finds himself in third place in Texas behind Mitt Romney (24%) and Newt Gingrich (23%), with only 18% of likely Republican primary voters in his home state backing his candidacy. However, Perry has pledged to keep on at least through the Jan. 31 Florida primary.
- › Republican state Sen. **Jeff Wentworth**, whose district runs from Southwest Travis County to San Antonio, holds a narrow fundraising lead in his re-election run, pulling in \$311,110 in the last six months against former Railroad Commissioner's **Elizabeth Ames Jones'** \$302,133. Failed 2010 congressional candidate **Donna Campbell** lags with \$47,477.
- › The Texas Supreme Court on Jan. 13 denied Ray Wolbrecht's challenge to Hays County's annexation into the **Austin Community College** district, allowing the college to issue bonds to finance a campus in Kyle's Plum Creek area.
- › In other ACC news, the college's campuses now boast a total of 18 **electric-vehicle charging stations**, available to the public for up to four hours at a time — no ACC parking permit required. Charging costs \$2 an hour, payable on-site by credit or debit card.
- › If you needed another reason to back the City of Austin's proposed ban on **single-use plastic and paper bags**, scheduled for a March council vote, now you have it. The right wing think tank Empower Texans has smeared it as one of council's "San Francisco-style intrusions into the free market."

POINT AUSTIN *continued from p.11*

tance to change inevitably results in racial injustice – because minority citizens are more subject to police contact and harassment, they are less likely to have the resources to defend themselves and navigate the criminal justice system and invariably endure prosecution disproportionately to their numbers – and that the D.A.’s Office allegedly pays that situation no mind.

Those are hard charges, but Lehmberg responds that Baird seems to think he invented racial equity and that, with a few high-profile exceptions, he knows very little about the range of functions carried out by the District Attorney’s Office. She says Baird’s promotion of 24/7 intake ignores the actual processes and requirements of arrest review, and that she has done plenty to modernize and computerize the intake and discovery systems. She has piloted and established diversion programs, plans to expand them, and says Baird is mostly insulted that his personal programs have not been picked up and pursued by other judges. She sharply resents Baird’s blaming the D.A.’s Office for systemic racial inequities that prosecutors did not create, and points to her work with local school districts to address the issue as one more fundamental and long-lasting than slogans and headlines. Broadly, Lehmberg points to the many other functions of her office – environmental enforcement, public integrity enforcement, child and family protection, etc. – about which Baird has shown little knowledge and less interest.

Jury Summations

Those are the general outlines established thus far by the candidates in their campaigns. Baird remains a long shot against a popular incumbent – Lehmberg’s 2008 trouncing of Mindy Montford is a cautionary tale – and most of the visible local officials have lined up behind Lehmberg. But Baird has always been a formidable campaigner, and he insists that there is a groundswell of dissatisfied local voters who believe dramatic changes are needed in the criminal justice system, and that he’s just the man to make those changes happen.

In short, the D.A. campaign should allow local voters to weigh what they believe is most important right now at the District Attorney’s Office and in our criminal justice system: steady, institutional management that can point to both high-profile convictions (e.g., the notorious Tom DeLay) and a willingness to modernize; or a sharp break with the past and a dramatic effort to redress ancient grievances and remake the prosecutor’s office as a center of institutional change and a goad to the entire Travis County justice system.

There are plenty of good arguments for both sides, and – with a primary tentatively set for April 3 or even later – it looks like we’ll have several more months to consider all of them. ■

Austin’s Never-Ending Story

DEADLINE REPORTING ON THE CITY OF REINVENTION

Welcome to my new column, with my very own title. Since August, I had been in squat-ter mode, occupying Michael King’s “Point Austin” column space every other week. Alas, I am no match for the indefatigable King and his peerless prose, but a girl can dream. As most *Chronicle* readers already know, Wells Dunbar, who rode herd over the “City Hall Hustle” column for several years, has moved on to start a new chapter in his life, leaving a vacancy in this particular column hole. Enter ... me. Granted, I’m not nearly as clever as the Hustler, but we do both hail from El Paso, and that has to count for something, right?

A brief introduction: I’ve been with the *Chronicle* since 1996. I moved to Austin in early 1990, at a time when the city was trying to recover from the savings and loan collapse. The real estate market was belly-up, and bankruptcies were through the roof. I must confess I wasn’t immediately taken by the city’s coolness. I spent the first six months bouncing between temp jobs and job interviews. And when I wasn’t looking for employment, I spent nights pacing the floors and days with my head in the oven, figuratively speaking. I was in a fix. Once I landed a real job and found my way out of my self-imposed darkness, I began falling in love with Austin.

OBSERVATION DECK

As a professional observer, if I may call myself that for just one moment, one of the most exciting periods I’ve witnessed in Austin was the dreamy **dot-com bubble**, with an endless number of IPOs serving as a symbol of success for so many Web startups – the young darlings who were making it rain in

Austin. We may not have been fully grounded in reality, but we were enjoying the ride, some of us more vicariously than others. So what if I didn’t have stock options? I had a media pass to the **South by Southwest Interactive Festival**, which for me was a little bit like winning a three-figure prize on a scratch-off lottery card. In the spring of 2000, I went to hear *Wall Street*

Journal columnist **Kara**

Swisher, a speaker on one of the Interactive panels who was slated to address the future of dot-coms. Her message (paraphrasing now): There is no future, you idiots. She told the starry-eyed audience that the bubble was already bursting and it was just a matter of time before Austin would start feeling the

pain. Talk about

harsh. I think very few people in the audience believed Swisher, because times were good and every day was like happy hour. But of course she was right, and the **dot-com bust** that followed wasn’t pretty. It sounds simplistic now, but I’ve since had to continue to remind myself to listen up when someone in the trenches sounds a warning – no matter how far-fetched it might seem.

Thankfully, Austin has an uncanny knack for reinventing itself, creating new communities in the process.

Fast-forward to right now: There’s a ton of conundrums and ambitious initiatives in play at the city and county levels (not to mention the entire state), and our incredible shrinking

News staff is learning to juggle more things while trying to have fun. It’s a balancing act.

THEN THERE’S THIS ...

“The title is its own lead-in,” my brother wrote in an email offering up a handful of potential column names when I asked for his help. He is so right. Plus, the title allows one to wander off on so many different tangents. Gosh – where to start? Can the city add just one more task to its plate? Not only is it grappling with new **electric rates**, there’s also a citywide **comprehensive plan** in the works, a bond oversight committee is weighing what goodies to add to the **next bond election**, and another citizens committee is considering **revisions to the City Charter**. Then there’s the question of what to do with the city’s **water rates** at a time when residents are using less water. As well, there’s a **city council election** this year, with some potential competition in the mayor’s race.

The county is also crackling (creaking?) with new activity as it crafts a master plan for future growth, including a new courthouse. This year’s election will bring to office a successor to the recently retired veteran Tax Assessor-Collector **Nelda Wells Spears**; odds are pretty good that will be **Bruce Elfant**. County Judge **Sam Biscoe** will retire in 2014, and there’s already plenty of jockeying among prospective candidates.

Before you know it, 2013 will be here and our wonderful Legislature will be gaveling in another weird session.

To be sure, there’ll be plenty of political and policy issues to write about in this space. I look forward to contributing to the discussion. I’d be lying if I said I didn’t want to influence the process. ■



There's a ton of conundrums and ambitious initiatives in play at the city, county, and state, and our incredible shrinking News staff is learning to juggle more things while trying to have fun.

CIVICS 101

THURSDAY 19

SOUND PERMIT Q&A

The music community and city departments team up and host this open house dedicated to answering questions about the recent changes to sound permitting during SXSW. 5-8pm. Historic ACL Studio, 2504 Whitis. Free.

CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE MEETING

Double the fun with discussion on single-member districts. 6:30pm. The Lord’s Church of Austin, 301 W. Anderson.

CAAAD AWARDS & LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Capital Area Asian American Democrats honor local activists and legislators with awards while also honoring the Year of the Dragon with food and cultural performances. 6pm. Satay, 3202 W. Anderson, 467-6731. \$10 recommended donation. www.austinasiansandems.com.

WATER CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Austin Water wants feedback about what works and doesn’t in its water restrictions. 6:30-9pm. Austin Water, 625 E. 10th, Rm. 104.

FRIDAY 20

OCCUPY THE COURTS Protest the Supreme Court’s Citizens United ruling on its second anniversary. 11:30am-2pm. 200 W. Eighth.

www.coffeepartyatx.com/?p=1369.

SATURDAY 21

CELEBRATE COOPERATION TEXAS

Third Coast Workers for Cooperation is now Cooperation Texas. Celebrate the new year and new name with treats from Black Star Co-op and Red Rabbit Cooperative Bakery, as well as tunes from a KOOP deejay. Sensing a pattern? 7-9pm. 5604 Manor Rd., 394-8648. Free; donations welcome. www.cooperationtexas.coop.

ADULT SPORTS COMMUNITY INPUT

Come tell PARD which programs and services you value in your neighborhood. 1pm. Fiesta Gardens, 2100 Jesse E. Segovia, 480-8318.

WEDNESDAY 25

JOB AND RESOURCE EXPO This city-wide job fair will include 50+ employers seeking to fill more than 1,000 positions in the area. 2-7pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. Free. www.austincityjobs.org.

ONGOING

DEEP EDDY CONSTRUCTION The portion of the Lady Bird Lake Hike & Bike Trail between the MoPac pedestrian bridge and Eilers Park will be closed for construction at Deep Eddy Pool through March 15.

FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES is recruiting volunteers to help low-income residents with income tax preparation. Apply online. www.foundcom.org.



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Prevailing Wage Doesn't Always Prevail

Workers may not have many rights in Texas, but one big plus is that it is a **prevailing-wage** state. That means that a laborer or mechanic working on a public project is supposed to be paid the industry standard for that kind of job. However, a local union claims that contractors working on one Austin landmark have been ignoring the statute, paying carpenters about half what they should be getting, and replacing them if they complain.

The ongoing \$12.5 million renovation of the **Dewitt C. Greer State Highway Building** should be a textbook example of a prevailing-wage job. Home to the **Texas Department of Transportation**, the 1933 art deco edifice at the corner of 11th and Brazos had been cited by the **State Fire Marshal's Office** on multiple occasions for serious code and safety violations. The project requires numerous essential repairs, including a new sprinkler system, replacing the building's 30-year-old HVAC and electrical systems, asbestos removal, and overdue wall and window renovations. The **Texas Facilities Commission** hired San Antonio-based **Bartlett Cocke** as its general contractor; Bartlett Cocke in turn hired Austin-based **Bomax Contractors** as a subcontractor, and Bomax hired the carpenters. Under the prevailing-wage law, Bomax should have been paying its workers \$25.62 an hour, the standard rate for drywall framing in Austin as calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor; instead, **Carpenters Local Union 1266** claims the firm paid the carpenters only \$14 an hour and was not deducting taxes or Social Security payments. Union finance secretary **Suzanne Litz** said, "We informed these workers that they were being

taken advantage of, and we informed the company that they were breaking the law."

Litz said that Bomax seemed genuinely interested in resolving the situation and sent the union a certified payroll to show that the workers were now being paid \$26 an hour. The union contacted the workers to check that they were really being paid that salary and to inform them that they were still owed back pay to make up for the time when they were underpaid. "We were out there to help the workers that were being taken advantage of, as it's hurting our craft," Litz said. However, several months later, the union found out that Bomax had replaced the crew and was underpaying the new workers.

There was no response to requests for comment on the dispute by Bomax or TFC, and TxDOT declined to comment, saying that it was a matter between the contractors. However, **Kirk Kistner**, Bartlett Cocke's vice president of marketing and business development, said he was unaware of any formal dispute. He said his firm has received the certified payroll from Bomax, and "they certify whatever wage scale has been established for this project." As for the union demonstrations outside the Greer building, he called them "common" and said they were simply a recruitment tactic. "The unions are trying to enlist employees of nonunion companies," he said, and noted that he had seen such activity increase since the economic collapse began in 2008.

But Litz said the protests are not a publicity stunt and that she has informed Bartlett Cocke that the union will be filing an official wage complaint. The union has also forwarded its documents to the U.S. Department of Labor and the IRS, but she said:



RICHARD WHITTAKER

Members of Carpenters Local Union 1266 protest their wage dispute with Bomax outside of the Texas Department of Transportation's Dewitt C. Greer State Highway Building.

"Unfortunately it takes years to be investigated. They just don't have the staff. So we have taken it to a public arena."

Unions like the prevailing-wage law because it guarantees good salaries for skilled workers: On a project driven by safety concerns like the Greer renovation, it would seem logical that the state would want the best workers, not just the cheapest. Litz said research collated by the Texas State Building and Construction Trades Council indicates that not only do prevailing-wage laws have no impact on overall cost for a public project, but the skilled workers hired are more productive and less likely to suffer an on-the-job injury.

The prevailing-wage law is also popular with some construction firms and subcontractors, as it prevents flagrant undercut-

ting during the bidding process, and there have been attempts made to reinforce it. In the last legislative session, Rep. **Paul Workman**, R-Austin, was joint author of House Bill 2989. Also known as the **Workplace Fraud Prevention Act**, it would prevent building firms from misclassifying employees as independent contractors, paying them off the books, or failing to withhold taxes. The bill passed out of the House Business & Industry Committee but never got a hearing on the floor. However, the union hopes it will be reintroduced next session and get a fuller hearing. That way, Litz said, "It doesn't matter whether you're a union company or a nonunion company, as long as we're bidding apples to apples and have just as good a chance as somebody else of getting the contract." — *Richard Whittaker*

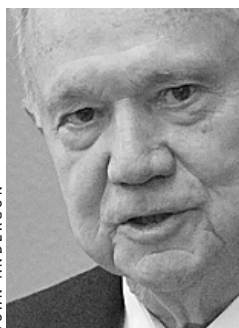
Council Hears From Two Sides of EUC

Members of a divided **Electric Utility Commission** on Tuesday laid out arguments for and against **Austin Energy's** proposed rate structure during a special-called meeting of the City Council. While no action was taken, council members raised plenty of questions based on the testimony they heard at the first public hearing Jan. 12. Much of the discussion turned on the vexing uncertainty of how to keep a \$1 billion municipal utility solvent without breaking the backs of ratepayers. The tone of Tuesday's meeting was framed in part by Mayor **Lee Leffingwell's** Jan. 15 blog post in which he came out strongly against the proposed hike.

Leffingwell's public opposition to the increase was roundly applauded by the proposal's critics. Topping the list of reasons he opposes the plan is the need for clarity on AE's future revenue requirements "based on sound analysis and projections," he wrote. He also expressed concerns about residential ratepayers bearing the brunt of the hike

and the utility's lack of consideration for "the special needs of schools, churches and our low-income residents." And he cited the concerns of ratepayers outside city limits who are threatening to challenge the increase with the Public Utility Commission, all while echoing a prevailing theme of many of the opponents — that the proposal does little to encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and the use of renewable energy.

Nevertheless, four of the majority EUC members who voted for the \$100 million-plus increase stood their ground Tuesday and vigorously defended the proposal. EUC Chair **Phillip Schmandt** urged the council to avoid turning AE's projected revenue requirement into a political issue. "Austin Energy has been operating in a deficit for two years," he said after the meeting. "Without a rate increase, Austin Energy's bond rating would likely be decreased, which would cost us more in the future." The rate package poses a particularly difficult political challenge for



JOHN ANDERSON

Mayor Lee Leffingwell opposes plan to raise electric rates.

the four City Council incumbents running for reelection this year:

Leffingwell, **Sheryl Cole**, **Mike Martinez**, and **Bill Spelman**. So far, none of them face a competitive opponent, although environmental activist and former Council Member **Brigid Shea** is considering challenging Leffingwell for the mayor's seat.

EUC members **Shudde Fath** and **Barbara Day** weighed in against the current increase (though a Channel 6 technical glitch created a large audio gap in Day's presentation; she was out of town and speaking to council by phone). Fath, the commission's longest-serving member, advised council to hire its own consultant to review the rate package, instead of relying on AE's handpicked consul-

ants; she recommended Austin firm Diversified Utilities Consultants, which she says has successfully assisted the city in past rate cases.

Commissioner **Steve Smaha**, touching on a theme that typically arises during the city's annual budget process, suggested it was time to rethink the practice of shifting \$150 million or so from the utility to the city's general fund to help pay for city services. Martinez's resistance to that notion was immediate: "If you want to cut that \$150 million, then which ... fire stations do you want to close? How many libraries do you want to close?" It's one thing to treat AE as a business, he added, but that business is also an asset to the citizens it serves.

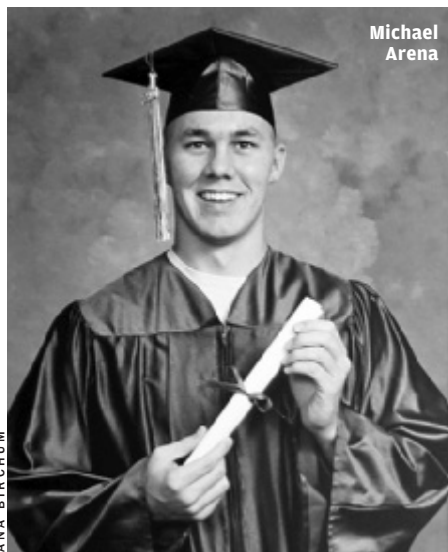
The next public hearing is set for Feb. 2 (a Jan. 26 hearing was postponed because Leffingwell will be out of town). The mayor noted that hearings will likely continue beyond Feb. 2 — presumably until AE can come up with a rate proposal on which a majority of council can agree. (For a wrap-up of the Jan. 12 hearing, see "AE Rate Gate," Newsdesk blog, Jan. 13.) — *Amy Smith*

Arena Case Meets the Supremes

Should **Michael Arena** be granted a new sentencing hearing? Or should he be declared innocent by the **Texas Supreme Court** – finally cleared of a 20-year sentence for a sexual assault that no one, not even the alleged victim, now says even happened? Those are among the questions now before the justices who heard oral arguments on the case Jan. 10. Arena was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 1999, when he was just 16, for the alleged sexual abuse of his then-7-year-old cousin, Stephanie; Stephanie has vociferously denied that any abuse ever took place and said instead that her mother, going through a bitter divorce from Michael's uncle, compelled her to lie about the abuse in order to keep herself out of jail for violating court orders.

The court has several issues before it – including whether the expert testimony of Williamson County psychologist **Fred Willoughby** was improperly allowed into evidence at Arena's sentencing hearing. Willoughby testified that a psychological examination of Arena using the "Abel Assessment" demonstrated that he was a pedophile and would be dangerous if released on probation. The problem, in part, is that the Abel Assessment – a visual test that purports to identify sexual preference in young children – has not been shown to be effective for determining sexual leanings of juveniles. (The State Board of Examiners of Psychologists subsequently sanctioned Willoughby for his failure to substantiate in-court opinions.)

The state has argued – as it did last week – that Willoughby's inaccurate testimony had no impact on Arena receiving two decades behind bars. The judges on the state's highest civil court (which also is the final arbiter of criminal cases involving juveniles) appeared skeptical: Justice **Debra Lehrmann** asked if **James Murphy**, the attorney representing the state (in this case, Bell County, where Arena is from), was suggesting that Willoughby's testimony was not false. "No, his statements were false," Murphy responded.



ed. Rather, he said, they simply didn't influence the jurors into convicting Arena, since Willoughby testified at the punishment phase of the trial. Moreover, Murphy asserted, the jurors weren't swayed by the testimony during sentencing either – he noted that Arena's trial attorney, **Bobby Barina**, has said as much in post-conviction legal proceedings.

The judges were not impressed – noting that Barina's statements might be self-serving since he was defending himself against a claim that he'd provided Arena with ineffective legal counsel. Justice **Eva Guzman** pointed out that prosecutors used Willoughby's statements during their closing arguments in the guilt phase in order to raise the specter of Arena as a dangerous teen – "Is that not a use of false testimony?" she asked; Chief Justice **Wallace Jefferson** said that it would be "highly influential to a jury" to hear Willoughby's false pronouncements.

On that question of improper sentencing, it appeared there was no dissension among the judges. But whether Arena should be declared actually innocent, based largely on

the fact that his cousin Stephanie has – repeatedly and adamantly – recanted her childhood testimony implicating her cousin in acts of sexual abuse, seems less apparent. The **Third Court of Appeals** wasn't swayed by Stephanie's recantation, Murphy said, noting that Stephanie had also accused Michael's brother, John, of the same conduct, to which John pled guilty.

Indeed, John did so in exchange for a lighter sentence, a decision he told the *Chronicle* in 2010 was prompted in part by police pressure to confess and in part by an alleged promise that if he pled guilty, Michael would not be charged. (John served seven years and is out of prison.) Stephanie has said that neither brother ever assaulted her. (For more on the case, see "Criminally Innocent," Nov. 5, 2010.)

While Murphy told the court that Stephanie's recantation was not believable in part because John Arena confessed and pleaded guilty, Guzman was not so sure. "In custodial disputes it is not unusual to have these kinds of allegations of abuse," she noted. It happens "all the time." Moreover, Justice **Nathan Hecht** questioned whether Arena would ever have been tried at all if prosecutors had known then that Stephanie would recant and Willoughby would testify falsely. Given what we know now, it "would be very hard for a jury to convict," Hecht said. "In fact, a prosecutor wouldn't even bring" such a case.

Still, the court seemed to struggle with how much deference should be given to the lower courts in determining whether Arena could be cleared on grounds of actual innocence. The state, of course, argues that great deference should be afforded to the jurists who have, thus far, concluded that neither the recantation nor the Willoughby testimony have cast grave doubt on Arena's conviction. But Arena's attorney **Clint Broden** is certain that Arena is, in fact, innocent of the alleged crime. "This is an innocent man who has spent 40 percent of his life in prison," Broden said. "It is rare that I represent an innocent person," he went on. "I can say, without any hesitation, [that] I do in this case."

– Jordan Smith

A Brighter Day for Martin Ezell

After more than a decade of being required to register as a sex offender, **Martin Ezell** has finally found a way off the state's ever-expanding registry: Travis County prosecutors allowed him to retract his plea in a case of sexual assault of a child, and then quickly dismissed the charges against him – in "the interest of justice," the dismissal form reads. "I didn't honestly think that this day would ever come," said Ezell. "I was in the Army; I'm a Desert Storm veteran. I've done a lot of tough things. ... I consider myself fairly strong, but when I was asked [in court] if I had anything to say ... I broke down. I couldn't speak, because I just didn't believe it."

Ezell was 32 when he met his then-future wife in 1998. She was just 16. After her mother learned of the couple's relationship, Ezell was prosecuted for sexually assaulting a minor – in Texas, the age of consent is 17, and Ezell's wife was then just shy of that. Ezell entered a plea and was given deferred adjudication; he successfully completed his probated term, but nonetheless, under the state's complicated and numerous sex offender laws, was required to register as a sex offender for life. Ezell and his young bride have stayed together and now have three children. But Ezell has been unable to find any work – he has a master's degree from St. Edward's University and hoped to teach high school, but his status has prevented him, and his wife has had to take multiple jobs to keep the family afloat.

In theory, the state's **sex offender registry** was created as a way to let the public monitor dangerous sexual predators; in practice, it has become badly

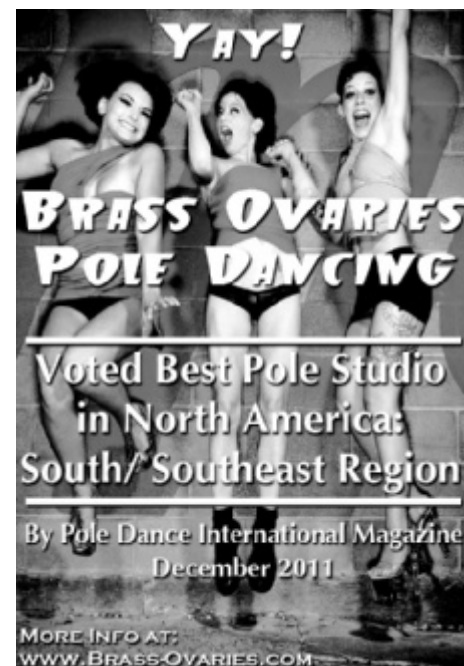
diluted because state laws require so many people to register – including so-called "Romeo and Juliet" offenders not entirely unlike Ezell (though, typically, Romeo and Juliet cases involve two youthful lovers). The crowded registry causes frustration for police tasked with monitoring the tens of thousands of people on the state's registry, a cost that largely falls into the laps of local police and sheriff's departments. (For more on the state's sex offender registry and the Ezell case, see "Sex Offenders Exposed," Sept. 10, 2010.)

And in Ezell's case, the impact of the registry is simply cruel: The couple's three children have, at times, been ostracized at school after peers or their parents have found Ezell's picture on the registry, and the family has had to move numerous times after neighbors have found him listed and have responded negatively.

Those days are, hopefully, almost over. On Jan. 12, District Judge **Karen Sage** signed an order (based on a motion filed by Ezell's pro bono attorney, former judge **Charlie Baird**) granting Ezell habeas relief, allowing him to withdraw his original guilty plea – setting aside the prior judgment and sentence – and ordering the Texas Department of Public Safety, which maintains the state's registry, to remove Ezell's name from the database. As soon as Sage had inked the order, prosecutor **Mary Farrington** signed off on a form to dismiss the underlying sexual assault charge.

For Ezell and his family, the resolution was a long time coming. "Everything looks different; the day seems a little bit brighter," he said. "It feels pretty good."

– J.S.



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Can Austin Get Its Arms Around ESDs?

For most Austin residents, the city is largely a benevolent entity. But for those living outside the city limits – in the extra-territorial jurisdictions and unincorporated areas – Austin sometimes feels like a creature from a Fifties horror movie, swelling ever outward, swallowing whatever territories it touches, imposing zoning standards and regulations, and ruthlessly expanding its tax base in a pitiless orgy of annexation. And when it comes to dealing with an ever-growing Austin, there's one indisputable truth: You can run, but you can't hide. As those suburban areas – which were developed outside of the city system of regulation and taxation – start to expect more urban infrastructure and services, they find themselves having to play by city rules.

That's a recent realization for some leaders of **Emergency Services District 6**. ESDs are political subdivisions in Texas created to provide fire and emergency services to unincorporated areas, many of them rural and relatively unpopulated. There are 14 ESDs located wholly or partially within Travis County, and some of them have grown quite a lot. ESD 6, which recently changed its name to **Lake Travis Fire Rescue**, has five firehouses serving an area encompassing about 200 square miles west of the city, including Lakeway, the Hills, Bee Cave, and Steiner Ranch, which was very nearly consumed by last year's wildfires.

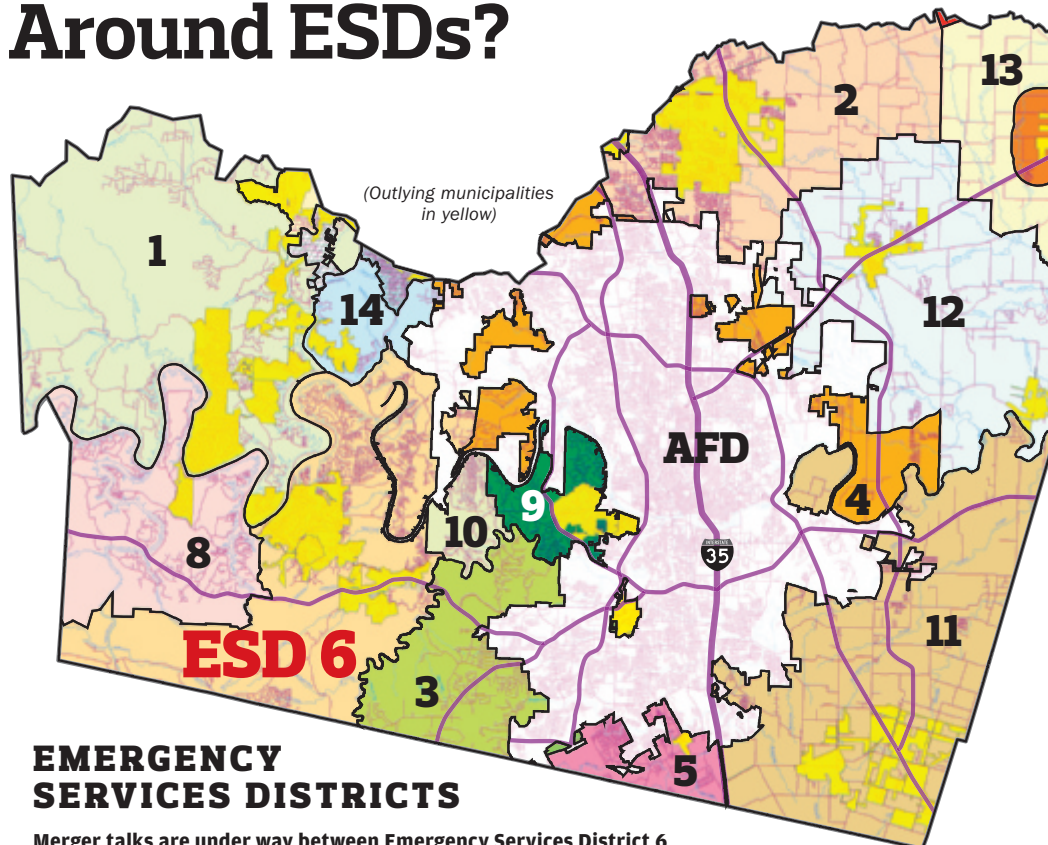
Every time Austin annexes part of an outlying district, it takes a portion of that district's tax base to provide emergency services. Rather than sit back and wait for that to happen piecemeal, the **ESD 6 Board of Commissioners** last year gave LTFR clearance to look into creating a partnership with Austin that would essentially fold ESD 6 into the **Austin Fire Department**,

thereby preserving Lake Travis fire and rescue jobs and smoothing the way for what many see as an inevitable annexation.

"The firefighters in ESD 6 provide excellent service, but we're looking toward the future," said Travis County Commissioner **Karen Huber**, who appointed one of the five commissioners on the ESD board. The problem, Huber says, comes down to money. Property taxes in ESD 6 are maxed out at 10 cents per \$100 valuation, which simply isn't enough to sustain an adequate fire department. "ESD 6 wants urban services," said the commissioner, "but doesn't have the valuation for it."

Though negotiations between ESD 6 and the city are still in the preliminary stages, the next step could be a proposed contract for service agreement under which firefighters would be taken in by Lake Travis AFD and the district would contract with Austin for emergency services while still retaining taxing authority. That way, when Austin comes to annex ESD 6, Lake Travis firefighters will already be a part of both AFD and the **Austin Firefighters Association**.

Such an agreement might be the simplest solution to the problem of providing sustainable emergency services in the Lake Travis area, but that doesn't mean it would be easy. Moving the firefighters into AFD would require both Lake Travis and the



EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICTS

Merger talks are under way between Emergency Services District 6 and the Austin Fire Department. If the deal goes through, it may only be a matter of time before similar mergers occur between AFD and the remaining 13 ESDs in Travis County.

firefighters' association to revise their collective bargaining agreements. Plus it raises numerous questions about how to fold one department into the other fairly and equitably. For example, how would experienced LTFR firefighters fit into the AFD pay scale? How would AFD assure that LTFR firefighters have the same training as its firefighters? What about rank? Would lieutenants in Lake Travis automatically become lieutenants in Austin? Would chiefs? And, significantly, how would the new firefighters get vested into the existing Austin pension system?

According to AFA President **Bob Nicks**, making sure the pension question is answered in a way that's cost-neutral is one of the "drop-dead" demands the union would have before agreeing to any merger with ESD 6. "Bringing ESD 6 firefighters in with pension seniority if they haven't been contributing to the pension fund would be costly and may not be fair," said Nicks. "We can probably bring them in with zero seniority, under the same assumption as a new person, but we can't roll their pensions in."

Meanwhile, LTFR Chief **Jim Linardos** says he can see the long-term value in an agreement between his district and Austin, so long as his firefighters are taken care of. "This agreement could provide continuity of emergency service, so nothing would change if the city annexes," Linardos said.

"But what happens to my experienced firefighters in that scenario?"

At the moment, that scenario is little more than an idea on a chalkboard. Two weeks ago, the union held a series of informational meetings on the ESD 6 issue for its members, and Nicks says the group plans to hold a series of workshops in the next few weeks. In addition, both AFA and the Lake Travis Firefighters Association Local 4117 have agreed to delay negotiations until the city releases a preliminary financial assumption for a potential agreement some time in February or early March. That, said Nicks, may determine whether a merger between Austin and ESD 6 is viable. "We're adamant not to move until we know the money thing is feasible. If the money is unreasonable, we won't do it," said Nicks.

"This is more a marathon than a sprint." If a deal on ESD 6 does go through, it may only be a matter of time before Travis County's 13 other emergency districts follow. Austin currently has mutual aid agreements with the surrounding ESDs to ensure multiagency responses to large-scale emergency situations (agreements put to use during last summer's wildfires), but the next logical step for a rapidly growing, rapidly urbanizing region might be to erase once and for all the line between regional departments and put the whole show under one roof.

– Josh Rosenblatt

Another Charge of Negligence at APD's Crime Lab

A former employee of the **Austin Police Department** crime lab has filed a formal complaint with Travis County District Attorney **Rosemary Lehmborg**, alleging irregularities in drug testing procedures – including that at times reports have been issued before any actual forensic drug analysis has been done. "I believe that scientific evidence should be accurate and reliable when used against defendants charged in criminal cases," wrote former lab employee **Debra Stephens** in a December letter to Lehmborg.

In the letter, Stephens writes that she believes she was terminated (last spring) for raising questions about lab procedures and the qualifications of some personnel. It's the second time in as many years that a former employee at the lab has complained about possible deficiencies there and alleged retaliation for raising questions about lab operations. In 2010, former DNA lab employee **Cecily Hamilton** questioned the qualifications of personnel in that portion of the lab; subsequent audits of lab operations gave its operations a clean bill of health.

While APD Assistant Chief **Sean Mannix** at a press conference discounted Stephens' claims and described her as an "angry former employee," defense attorneys are concerned that there may be some merit to her allegations. The 2005 introduction of a "rocket docket" for low-level drug cases created a need for swift test results from the crime lab. Stephens wrote to Lehmborg that based on a review of cases, she would "estimate that there are hundreds of other cases dating back to 2005 that were analyzed without regard to laboratory protocols in 'rush' case requests."

Lehmborg released information about the allegations to the criminal defense bar and has asked the **Department of Public Safety** to review the forensic concerns. In a letter dated Jan. 6, D. Pat Johnson, deputy assistant director of the DPS crime lab, disagreed with Stephens' argument that certain APD lab personnel are not qualified, though he did find two cases where it doesn't appear testing was done before a "preliminary report" was emailed to prosecutors, and said there may be additional documents that need to be reviewed. In a press release, Lehmborg's office says the DPS is requesting additional documentation. "The public's confidence is our highest priority," she said. – Jordan Smith

Ultrasound Law Takes Effect

Less than two days after a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower-court decision to enjoin enforcement of certain provisions of Texas' new and controversial **ultrasound-before-abortion** law, the federal appellate judges granted the state's request that the court make its ruling effective immediately – before any appeal of the decision or any other action could be taken to challenge the new ruling. The law requires women to undergo an ultrasound 24 hours before seeking an abortion (typically by an invasive transvaginal procedure) and that they view the sonogram and listen to both the fetal heartbeat and a description of fetal development. There are few exceptions to the new requirements, which the 5th Circuit cleared as a legally permissible extension of the state's so-called “informed consent” law.

The **Center for Reproductive Rights**, which is challenging the constitutionality of the law on behalf of a group of Texas doctors, says there is no justification for the immediate enforcement of the challenged provisions, which the CRR says violate the First

Amendment. “There is no justification for Texas to have insisted on the immediate enforcement of this intrusive and demeaning law, nor the court of appeals to have granted it without giving us an opportunity to be heard,” **Nancy Northup**, CRR's CEO and president, said in a press statement. “Texas reproductive health providers and the women they serve deserve to be treated the same as anyone else seeking a fair hearing from our courts.”

Not surprisingly, Gov. **Rick Perry** celebrated the decision as a way to “save” unborn lives: “The Fifth Circuit's decision requires abortion providers to immediately comply with the sonogram law, appropriately allowing Texas to enforce the will of our state, which values and protects the sanctity of life.”

A summary judgment hearing in the case, where the CRR will seek to have the law permanently enjoined from enforcement – and the state will seek to have the CRR's lawsuit dismissed – is set for Friday, Jan. 20, in federal court in Austin. (For more on the court's recent ruling, see “Fifth Circuit Approves Mandatory Ultrasound,” *Newsdesk blog*, Jan. 11.)

– Jordan Smith

No Short-Term Ordinance

After a tense Tuesday work session and a couple of hours of inconclusive Thursday debate, City Council voted 5-2 last week to “postpone final action” on any ordinance addressing **short-term rentals** until the **City Auditor** can complete a citywide review of STRs. The resolution, sponsored by Council Members Bill Spelman and Chris Riley, initially directed the city manager to “temporarily suspend” the process of revising regulations on short-term rentals currently pending before the Planning Commission. Some neighborhood associations (and the Austin Neighborhoods Council) want to prohibit any commercial (non-resident-owned) short-term rentals in residential districts, and the Board of Adjustment has declared such uses illegal – triggering a lawsuit against the city. Spelman argued that council needs better information on the extent of the problem (if any); Council Member Kathie Tovo insisted that it's time to act and tried to whittle any audit to one or two neighborhoods and no more than 60 days but was joined only by Council Member Laura Morrison. The Planning Commission will take up the matter Jan. 24, but council will wait for City Auditor Kenneth Mory's report, expected in late March or early April.

– Michael King

the hightower report BY JIM HIGHTOWER THROWING THE BOOK AT SCHOLASTIC INC.

“The vast majority of our programs are not controversial,” said the CEO of the world's largest publisher of children's educational material, “but once in a while, there was a slipup in editorial judgment.”

I'll say! Like taking big bucks from **big coal** to produce a curriculum packet for fourth-grade teachers that was a shameless propaganda piece for – guess who? – big coal. That “slipup” by **Scholastic Inc.** precipitated an avalanche of anger from parents, children's advocacy groups, and environmentalists. The \$2-billion-a-year corporation was buried in bad publicity and stung with fundamental questions about the integrity of its classroom materials.

It turns out that this was not Scholastic's first trip down the slippery slope of corporate-financed “education.” It has also taken cash to produce books and lesson plans that served the interests of such brand-name outfits as Brita, Disney, Microsoft, Nestle, and Shell. Publishing the biased content of these funders

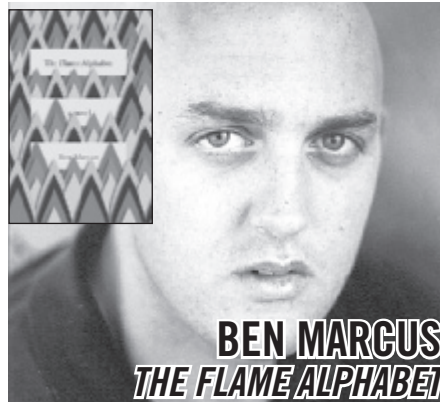
matters; Scholastic is able to get its materials into 90% of U.S. classrooms – which, of course, is why corporate giants want to buy in. Indeed, Scholastic brags that it reaches young minds with curriculum-connected programs that can influence behavior and affect “brand awareness” and “consumer loyalty.”

Now, however, Scholastic's behavior is being influenced. The public outcry forced it to terminate some of its industry puff pieces and announce a partial retreat on accepting corporate funds, while also setting up a quasi-independent review board to vet all materials produced in “partnerships” with industry.

This is Jim Hightower saying: To be worthy of its name, Scholastic needs to sever all corporate connections, which is why We the People must stay on its case. To keep up and speak up, go to www.commercialfreedom.org.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, “The Hightower Lowdown” – visit www.jimhightower.com. You can hear his radio commentaries on KOOP Radio 91.7FM, weekdays at 10:58am and 12:58pm.

Events at BookPeople



Tuesday, January 24 7 PM

BookPeople is partnering with American Short Fiction to bring you Ben Marcus, with one of the most-anticipated novels of 2012. A strange epidemic has caused children's voices to become lethal. What is left of civilization when we cannot communicate with those we love?



Friday, January 27 7 PM

MysteryPeople presents internationally bestselling crime writer R.J. Ellory with his newest, *A Quiet Vendetta*. Set in Louisiana, the governor's daughter has gone missing. When the kidnapper finally starts talking, only then do we realize what a tangled web has begun to unfurl.

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If the federal courts ever resolve the redistricting disputes delaying the Texas primaries, Travis County Democratic voters will be nominating a district attorney (no Republicans have filed). Retired District Judge Charlie Baird is challenging incumbent Rosemary Lehmberg, seeking her second four-year term, in what already has the makings of a fiery contest. Both candidates are richly experienced and qualified, and neither one minces words on the campaign trail. In his career, Baird has been a district judge, a visiting justice on state appeals courts, and a professor of law. Beginning in 1990, most importantly, he served two terms on the Court of Criminal Appeals, where he was a strong and independent voice for both reason and justice. Lehmberg joined the District Attorney's Office in 1976, where she has served as director of the career criminal, major crimes, public integrity, and family justice divisions, and was a founder of the county's Center for Child Protection. She became first assistant D.A. in 1997 and was elected to her current position in 2008, assuming the office in January 2009.

Baird says that Lehmberg's long experience has made her an institutional defender of an office needing fundamental change; Lehmberg responds that most of Baird's proposals are both impractical and misdirected.

In December, we sat down with Baird and then Lehmberg for lengthy conversations about criminal justice, their records, the District Attorney's Office and their competing perspectives about its future, and how each would approach the job going forward. The conversations addressed arrest intake review, diversion programs, conviction integrity matters, racial imbalance in the criminal justice system, the death penalty, and much more. Published here is a representative sample from each conversation; the full versions of are available online at austinchronicle.com, where they provide a more complete picture of the major issues facing the D.A.'s Office. (For more on the race, see "Point Austin," p.11.)

A Quarrel With the Status Quo

CHARLIE BAIRD ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND THE TRAVIS COUNTY D.A.

Austin Chronicle: Why did you decide to run?

Charlie Baird: Well, I'll tell you, honestly ... what I could do is I could trade in my 2003 Buick and buy me a Lexus and drive down to the courthouse every day and not worry about all of these other issues. I just can't do that from a moral – I think it is wrong for me to have the willingness and the effort and the energy to put into something that could absolutely, fundamentally change and positively affect people's lives [and not do it]. ... I'm not going to sit back and know that these issues are out there and ignore them and not do anything about them.

AC: You couldn't affect these things sufficiently as a judge?

CB: I could not affect it sufficiently as a judge for a couple of reasons. Number one is, I do believe I affected it significantly and positively as a judge, as only one-seventh of the justice system, because there are seven felony judges. Everything that I did – or I should say nothing that I did – impacted the other six judges.



AC: So is your quarrel then as much with the other judges as it is with the District Attorney's Office?

CB: No, my quarrel is with the status quo. And I think that, to the extent that the judges who were extant at that time ... they were people that were there for a long, long time, but they grew up within the system. And they couldn't see – it was just like, "Well, nobody's ever done that before, I'm not going to do it." ...

And one other thing I'll say is this: When you keep electing judges and they come right out of the D.A.'s Office, that's how they're raised. ... [Incumbent] Rosemary [Lehmberg] was on the payroll before [retired District Attorney] Ronnie [Earle] was elected; Ronnie was there 32 years. So, Rosemary is 33 [years]. She gets elected, she's going to have spent 37 years in that office at the end of this term. If the people of Travis County re-elect her, then that's 41 years. ... Whatever it is – this box – she has pretty much designed it and has her imprimatur on it. And my position is – and I don't mean this to be trite either – is that she can't see outside of the box because she designed the box.

AC: You were attacked as a judge – that you're soft on criminals, and somebody is going to get out and [commit another crime].

CB: And let me tell you something, I've had all of that happen to me. I've had the guy who jumped bond and didn't come back, you know, and I've had the guy that you let out on bond and who kills somebody. Those things

Fairness, Consistency, Safety

ROSEMARY LEHMBERG DEFENDS HER RECORD

Austin Chronicle: What do you think are your biggest accomplishments?

Rosemary Lehmberg: One of my priorities was that state court environmental prosecutions were sporadic, and the feds were cutting back because they were paying more attention to terrorism. And so I got a full-time environmental prosecutor, Patty Robertson.

Patty has opened over 60 cases already. I think she's gotten 18 convictions, and we largely go for corporate convictions because we can levy big fines. We've already collected over \$3.5 million in fines. Our first priority is remediation. ...

[W]e cut the ribbon on our new Child Protection Center, and I was able to finalize the bringing of the rest of the team people there. We cut the ribbon on the second part, which was to bring all of the team there from the other agencies together, and we did that during my first term. And now we are working on expanding our work there to include the investigation of domestic violence. ...

One of the first things I started working on was to revise our discovery policy, and that is part of a larger effort



that I've been working on with the Innocence Project. We needed to make sure that defense attorneys were getting the tools they need, and getting them easier, to prepare a defense. ...

We've started doing electronic discovery, almost immediately sending defense attorneys offense reports, particularly on drug cases, via email. ... One of the newest things that's happening in this area of innocence is developing a process in the office about whether or not a failure to disclose was a mistake or whether it was

prosecutorial misconduct. ... Prosecutors overlook things, but I don't want prosecutors on my staff who hide things.

Part of that was that – you know, we had our two or three exonerations years ago, and that made me be able to work closely with the national Innocence Project back then. ... We began looking at, eventually, 400 old cases on our own to determine whether biological evidence was present that could be tested but wasn't. And we did not find any exonerations. We retested about six cases and did not find any exonerations. ...

And I have always supported drug courts, because we have a lot of drug cases in this town. We have a drug court in juvenile court, and we have deferred prosecution out there. And we have an important drug court in the adult system that has now served, oh, 3,100 people and has graduated at about 50% success rate, which is pretty good with rehab. We also have one over in CPS [Child Protective Services] court, by the way, that is working primarily with drug-addicted mothers, trying to keep their children with them instead of separated.

"[Lehmberg] can't see outside of the box because she designed the box."

happen. There is no way to get around that. ... It's a system; it's a human system, and it's fallible. You make an intelligent, informed decision when you do it.

AC: What do you think are the central problems in the Travis County criminal justice system?

CB: The number one thing I would do is, I would include case screening. And that goes back to the 24/7 [intake]. What we've got now is the tail wagging the dog. [The Austin Police Department] – and I don't just want to point my finger at them – but they are the dominant law enforcement agency in Travis County – they arrest people, they charge people. They are totally in charge of the process, wrap it up in a bow, and drop it off at the D.A.'s Office. And there has been zero screening of those cases. And that to me is a fundamental lack of leadership – not only leadership, but a fundamental misunderstanding of how the system should operate. The district attorney should be the one that is in charge of saying, "OK, you [police] say this has happened; this is the case we will take." None of that is happening now. ...

continued on p.20

"I believe that if we're going to tackle the disproportionality issue ... that we have to go back even further."

AC: Baird's criticism of the deferred prosecution program is that it is too small and too narrow in focus.

RL: ... I decided to take a look at starting a parallel program for nonaddicted people that had a very strict criteria, for starting out. That means this is your first time to stub your toe. And so many people we've worked for years and years with at juvenile, they've had misdemeanors and felony stuff, and so we have established very strict criteria that it be a true first offender. ... I want the program to run for a while before I just tweak the criteria and throw the doors open.

AC: What's your sense of the public resources spent on treating the drug problem as a criminal problem?

RL: It's enormous. I think it's money that I'd rather be spending somewhere else. ... I think there is a misconception out there that we are sort of wholesale sending [people], particularly black men, to prison for drugs. Most of the time, whether they have juvenile records or not, when people come into our system for possession or use of

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CHARLIE BAIRD ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND THE TRAVIS COUNTY D.A.

Rose says “it’s not cost-effective.” ... And I disagree with that for two reasons: One, I think it’s a very small view of cost efficiency, because it may not be effective for her individual budget to have somebody there, but once the county starts appointing lawyers and once Sheriff [Greg] Hamilton has to house them for \$48 per day, it gets real expensive. So I think that it’s kind of a shortsighted or narrow view. ... And the other thing is, from a humanitarian-type thing, I don’t think we should be arresting innocent people and having them in jail and losing their jobs. ...

I really do not agree with that at all. The truth is the criminal justice system is not designed to be cost-effective. It is a very inefficient and costly process, and it should be, because you’re talking about depriving somebody of their freedom, and it shouldn’t be easy to do that.

AC: When your campaign began, you talked specifically about the racial aspects of this process.

CB: Absolutely. And I think that what happens is, I think – well, I don’t think, I know – minorities are arrested at a higher rate than Anglos. And there are statistics on this: They’re asked to consent to searches of their vehicles more; they’re not given as many class B citations, where you show up later for possession of less than 2 ounces of marijuana. They’re just in there more, so [screening] would dramatically impact and affect them right off the bat. ...

It is amazing to me, the line of demarcation known as I-35. And if you talk about this on the east side of I-35, everyone says: “Baird, you’re right. There’s as much discrimination here, or, here it’s as bad or worse.” And you talk about it on the west side of I-35 and everybody says: “No, we’re good; we’re solid. We’re liberals; we don’t do that.” And that’s absolutely not true.

AC: Are there other issues that you see your campaign as addressing?

CB: Yes. And this is heresy as a judge to say this, but I don’t think that we try enough cases in Travis County. ... I think that is wrong. I think that we ought to have trials; I think that we ought to be trying major cases. I don’t think that we should be pleading people who are dangerous and threatening. I think that we should be actively prosecuting those individuals, trying them and trying to get large sentences on those individuals because that is true protection of individuals in our society. We have plenty of bad



guys and gals here that we actively need to do that with. ...

AC: Another flash point issue is the death penalty.

CB: I am personally opposed to capital punishment. And this is why: I am opposed to it for three reasons. Number one, it has never shown to be a deterrent – obviously it’s a deterrent to the individual, but when you’re talking about in the criminal justice system ... does it stop Ted Bundy from killing? The answer is no. The second thing is, it is expensive. The last thing I saw, and I think this was a *Dallas Morning News* study, was that it essentially cost the state \$2.1 million to successfully prosecute a case that ended in the ultimate execution of an individual – \$2.1 million, versus \$600,000 if you tried him for a non-death offense and he was convicted and given life without parole. ... The third thing is, it is a very, very fallible system, and I just think that there’s always a chance of error. ...

So, anyway, those are the reasons I oppose it. I will say this: I’ve got some internal struggle with this. I don’t oppose it for moral reasons. I don’t think it’s wrong for us to exact the ultimate sanction against somebody for violating society’s laws. ... As D.A., I would not categorically take it off the table. ... Even though I am personally opposed to it, I can see situations where I think people of Travis County would demand it and say, “This is where we think the ultimate penalty has to be.” ... And I would do that, because I think to that extent, the D.A. is a political representative; he represents the will and the wishes of the populace. ■

ROSEMARY LEHMBERG DEFENDS HER RECORD

drugs, they’re going to get whatever help they want. ... Most of the folks that I see go to prison are because they’ve got other things going on, too. And it may be that they’re committing other types of crimes to get the drugs.

But my job is to balance those opportunities and what I owe those people with what I owe neighborhoods, because I’m talking to a lot of neighborhoods, and they’re compassionate, too, but they get tired of the quality of life not being taken care of in their own neighborhoods.

AC: Baird’s made the case that justice in Travis County is racially biased.

RL: I think that there’s certainly disproportionality in the criminal justice system, there’s no doubt about that; there’s disproportionality in the CPS system. ... I have a problem with his [Baird’s] totally laying that at my feet, because I think that’s an issue that all of us want to work on. ...

I believe that if we’re going to tackle the disproportionality issue ... that we have to go back even further than juvenile court, where there is the same dilemma. ... And so I’m looking at the schools. ... I believe I am working on it in the adult system, but I believe it is not just my problem; I believe it is a citywide problem and a national problem, but what I’m more interested in is in going back to stem the tide.

AC: We haven’t yet talked about the 24/7 [intake].

RL: ... I piloted it twice, actually. I sent just one prosecutor down for several long weekends [years ago], just to see what felonies were coming in after hours and didn’t go with 24/7 at the time because there weren’t enough cases. And then after I was sworn in, I did a more serious pilot where I sent all the division directors, I guess seven of them, down all night for a week, each of them two weeks. ... And we looked at how many cases were coming in, what they were, how many we would’ve rejected, and did we have an area of problem cases. ...

I said it wasn’t cost-effective because it’s not. It’s not a good expenditure of our time and money to review the few cases that come in overnight. So we decided not to do 24/7 arrest review; we review them first thing in the morning. But I started looking at something that I think is better, which he scoffs at, and that is electronic arrest review. And that’s the future.

AC: What is your own position on the death penalty?

RL: ... My first inquiry is, is there any question, at all, that this is the right person? If you have any question at all, it’s not this person, you certainly don’t seek the death penalty. Two, how likely is it that, legally and factually, from a Travis County jury, that the death penalty is warranted? With life without parole we are now in a position where the issue of future dangerousness has totally changed. ...

So, we are conservative in the way that we decide them; I am very conservative in the way I decide them. ... Sometimes I ask for more records, sometimes I ask for more information, but these are clearly my decisions.

AC: Why is it so hard for prosecutors to admit that they’re wrong?

RL: You know, it’s not for me, anymore. ... But once you have DNA and you really have found out that eyewitnesses could be wrong, it really almost knocks you out of your shoes. ... I think that it jolts you, and I think that once it happens you go, “OK, that’s never going to happen again.” And when you’re wrong, you say you’re wrong.

AC: There are plenty of voters who think a few mistakes don’t matter.

RL: ... That’s not my sense of the voting public in Travis County. The voting public in Travis County wants to be safe. They don’t necessarily want me to take somebody who burglarized their home and throw them in prison; they want me to make sure he doesn’t burglarize their home again. And they want me to do what it takes, fairly, consistent with that person’s history, to try to ensure their safety. ■

“The criminal justice system ... is very inefficient and costly process, and it should be, because you’re talking about depriving somebody of their freedom, and it shouldn’t be easy to do that.” – Charlie Baird

Travis County voters “want me to do what it takes, fairly, consistent with that person’s history, to try to ensure their safety.” – Rosemary Lehmberg

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THE ARTS

Re: Views

What's in a name? That which we call "review" by any other name would smell as

Well, let's not go there.

But let's do circle around the question of what makes a review a review, because it's been on my mind ever since the *Chronicle* ran a review for the play *Men of Tortuga* back in December. In it, writer Adam Roberts heaped accolades on Street Corner Arts, which staged the show, for the polished quality of what was its first production. Playwright, director, and actors were all name-checked and their respective skills praised – the program got a shout-out even – but no characters were mentioned, no plot was detailed, and no onstage action described.

Which prompted this remark in our online comments section: "And the play? These 494 words tell us almost nothing about *Men of Tortuga* other than the fact that Adam Roberts liked it." For commenter Michael Meigs, who runs the invaluable Austin Live Theatre website, the absence of any commentary on the production itself – the narrative, the characters, their portrayal by the actors, the flow of the action, or the *drama*, which is, after all, what people came to the theatre to see – made it less than satisfying as a review and perhaps less than useful, too. It clearly wasn't the review that Meigs wanted, but does that mean that it wasn't a review?

I'd argue that it was in that the writer offered a personal response to the show he'd seen. Re-viewing his experience (how easy it is to let slip that the act of looking back is the core of this process), what made the biggest impression on Adam was not really the story or how it was told but the way all the diverse elements of the show came together so beautifully for a first-time production. Given the number of new theatre companies that crop up locally every year (usually a dozen), most of them somewhat rough around the edges, a deft debut is newsworthy. So he wrote about that.

That sort of focus on the architecture of the production isn't what

most of us are accustomed in a review. We've been weaned on consumer directives – Go!/Don't go! – and shorthand evaluations – thumbs up or down, letter grades, stars (I'm lookin' at you, *Chronicle* film reviews!) – with judgments rendered on a standard series of production components (script, direction, performances, design, et al.), so that's largely what we've come to expect from reviews. But such re-views provide



BY ROBERT
ALL OVER
CREATION
FAIRES

only a limited view of the artwork that was seen. With, say, a play, they ignore the inspiration for the script, its intent, the reason it was chosen for production, the histories of the producing company and the artists involved, what they're trying to say with the play, and what meaning it may have for our community at this moment in time. All those aspects contribute to why a show is what it is and are worth talking about. Bringing any of them into a discussion of a production in a review expands the reader's sense of that artistic endeavor.

As Elizabeth Cobbe wrote when I invited *Chronicle* Arts writers to weigh in on the topic: "Certainly there is a consumer-reporting aspect to what we do, but at their best, reviews should themselves be enjoyable to read and worthwhile contributions to a publication. One could write a book report or assign a letter grade, but is that really participating in the larger conversation about arts in the community? What does it take to get a review to that level?"

Jonelle Seitz believes that it takes a lot of work: "A critic has to constantly make decisions about which of his or her experiences might have value to the reader – for example, by providing a context – that warrants taking space away from describing the work itself."

But describing the work isn't necessarily the most important function of the review, Arts Listings Editor Wayne Alan Brenner argues, because it isn't always what the reader wants: "Sometimes, y'know ... a reader – myself, frequently – prefers a general impression. Because he or she doesn't want to be told what the play is about, specifically, or what goes on in it, specifically; because spoilers aren't just spoilers of *Weird Plot Twists* like in *Sixth Sense* or *The Crying Game*; because spoilers are sometimes just having Too Much Goddamned Basic Information That One Would Rather Have Experienced Afresh For Oneself. Of course, if a reviewer is to avoid such a sort of spoiler, if a reviewer is going to give a worthwhile *impression*, that reviewer had better well do a decent and somehow informative job of it."

The thing is, there are probably as many different ideas of what readers want from reviews as there are readers. So why not make room for them all? The book report and the superlative-laden rave, the subtextual analysis and the historical/political perspective, and the review about the background of the production company. Let's have them all (well, except for the ones with spoilers) in order to place works of art in the largest context possible. That's when our re-views give us full views. ■

COURTESY OF REBECCA MARR



'Long Gone Lonesome'

FROM SCOTLAND, A LONE STAR STATE OF MIND

Considering how bowled over local audiences were by the National Theatre of Scotland's touring production of *Black Watch* last spring, the news that Texas Performing Arts had booked the company for a return engagement this season must have prompted cheers. (It did from me, but then *Black Watch* topped my list of great experiences in the theatre last year: See "Top 10 Theatrical Wonders of 2011," Jan. 6, 2012.) You should know, though, that the production the National Theatre is bringing to Austin for its second visit could hardly be more different than the strikingly theatrical drama of soldiers at war that it brought for its first. Rather than transporting us to Iraq, this show sticks much closer to home – their home *and* ours.

See, *Long Gone Lonesome* is about country music – the music of our heartland as heard by a fisherman on the distant shores of the Shetland Islands and embraced as his own. Thomas Fraser was a native of Burra Isle, one of those rocky outposts in the North Sea far to the northeast of the Scottish mainland. Like so many of his neighbors, he made his living from the sea, but he'd been captivated by American blues and country music since he'd heard it as a boy in the 1930s, and Fraser absorbed it note for note until he could sing and play a Jimmie Rodgers tune and sound just like the Singing Brakeman. While desperately shy, Fraser played enough local gigs to develop a huge following near his home, but he never pursued a musical career. And he might never have been known outside his village had he not recorded himself singing hundreds of songs on a reel-to-reel tape recorder. Following his death at age 50 in 1978, family members preserved and circulated some of that material, and Fraser is now considered one of the great unsung singers of the form.

In 2009, musician and music historian Duncan McLean was approached by the National Theatre of Scotland to transform the story of this lost musical hero into a play. The result features McLean's Lone Star Swing Band – this man has his own deep affinity for country music, especially Texas swing – recounting the tale of Fraser's life while paying tribute to him with the music he treasured so. There's lively storytelling, singing, and after almost every performance, dancing, too, as the band breaks into a set and room is made for the audience to do a little boot-scootin'. It's a sweet, spirited celebration of one man's passion for music, a music that spoke to him from across an ocean – made all the sweeter by being performed in the state where so many of the songs he loved were born. In a sense, these travelers from Scotland will be bringing Fraser home. – R.F.

Long Gone Lonesome runs Jan. 19-21, Thursday-Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 2 & 8pm, at Bass Concert Hall, 23rd Street & Robert Dedman Dr., UT campus. For more information, visit 477-6060 or visit www.texasperformingarts.org.

South-of-the-Border Speculation

'Three Messages and a Warning' presents a broad swath of Mexican SF

BY ROBERTO ONTIVEROS

The notion of Mexican science fiction may, to some minds, go no further than that Borges story "There Are More Things," a pastiche of interdimensional Lovecraftian terror that starts out in Austin and ends near an alien's corpse in Argentina. But with the publication of *Three Messages and a Warning* – a groundbreaking anthology which gathers nearly 40 Mexican writers and holds a diversity that includes an underground comic book artist as well as a world-renowned neurologist – that paradigm may shift.

In an effort to display the breadth and dynamism of the current state of Mexican speculative fiction, most of the pieces are, out of necessity, "short shorts," known in Spanish as *microrelatos*. "And if they could have been longer," says Eduardo Jiménez Mayo, "then you could really see what these guys were doing."

The San Antonio-based Mayo, co-editor of *Three Messages and a Warning* and a frequent translator who earned his Ph.D. in Spain's Universidad San Pablo, doesn't mince words when it comes to his estimation of the current state of sci-fi writing, regardless of length. "What we have in this book is way better than what you're going to typically find published in Mexico today, and way better than the crap you'll get in America, where there is hardly anything worth reading, anyway."

The uniqueness of the pieces gathered – which range from Lacanian takes on Día de los Muertos to ecologically ectoplasmic nightmares – are what first enthralled his co-editor, Chris N. Brown. A tireless enthusiast of a genre that he believes encompasses everything from fanzines to Cormac McCarthy's novel *The Road*, Brown was invited as a panelist to attend the 2009 Festival de Mexico literary symposium on the theme "Parallel Worlds: science fiction as part of the literary avant-garde." He returned from the event much more excited about the young Mexican writers who moderated the discussions than the Anglo-American science-fiction luminaries who were the featured guests.

"Mexican science fiction treats the fantastic as an essential component for depicting contemporary life," says Brown, who is building a "bunker house" in an industrial neighborhood in East Austin based somewhat on the work of J.G. Ballard.

"Mexican science fiction is not Mexicanized space opera," Brown cautions anyone thinking that *Three Messages and a Warning* will resemble a series of John W. Campbell-like jaunts set in Zacatecas. "Contemporary Mexican fantastic literature tends to be less about adventurous escapism – Mexicans in space – and more about using the tools of science fiction and fantasy writers to depict the unexpected 'realities' of contemporary life."

Perhaps for the same reason, Mayo disregards the idea that the stories in *Three Messages and a Warning*, which he views as being a direct descendant of the grand tradition of

la literatura fantástica, are science fiction at all. "The only thing 'sci-fi' about Mexico is the fact that Mexico has just as many mad scientists as any other major nation on the planet. Mexican science fiction exists thanks to them, no doubt," he says.

At any rate, the label is devalued. Mayo and Brown's effort to display the varieties of the south-of-the-border speculative experience have brought together an intense company of disparate voices and styles in a book that should be considered as inaugural an anthology as Harlan Ellison's *Dangerous Visions*.

"The writers we have collected are from such divergent cultural castes that they would never appear together in the same book in Mexico. But read from the distance of the other side of the border, I think it is clear that they share a common sensibility," says Brown.

A special emphasis was made by the editors to incorporate, aside from economic and class differences, gender politics as well. "And this wasn't anywhere near as easy I

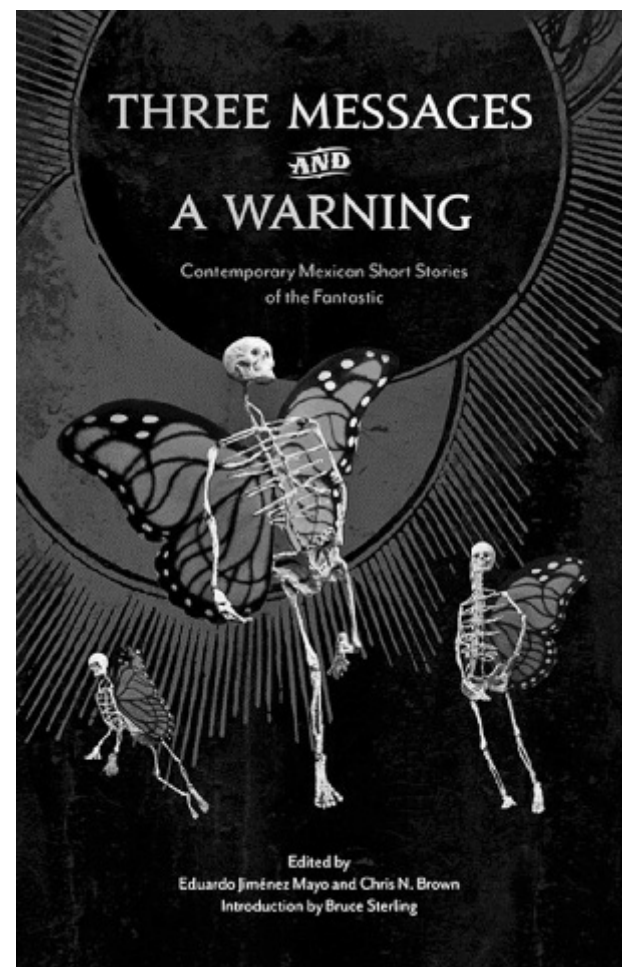
hope the finished product would suggest," says Brown. "Gender seems to drive a much more divergent perspective in the stories we saw than has been my experience with American writers, with women often depicting a much darker, almost gothic contemporary reality," he notes, citing Amparo Dávila's "The Guest," a story about a housewife dealing with the subtle horror of her husband's indefinite monstrous houseguest, as a prime example. "As is the case in ours and other national traditions, fabulism is employed as effective tool to depict our universal condition of alienation, but in the case of the Mexican women writers we found, the alienation is often darker, more disenfranchised, and more real – experienced with all the senses, especially the sense of pain."

The potpourri of speculative polyphony achieved by this anthology might never have happened if not for the dual tenacity of these two men, who both happen to be lawyers but come from such different aesthetic assumptions as to seem irreconcilable in their tastes.

Brown insists the speculative literary work happening right now reflects a multicultural 21st century society that is defined far more by the consequences of electronic communication networks than by the usual folkloric tchotchkes of Mexican culture one might find at the neighborhood import shop. "Our anthology," he explains, "showcases writers who use the tools of SF to liberate themselves from the tropical languor of old-school magic realism and express the authentic feeling of a media-drunk, technological-mediated, postmodernly alienated contemporary life – one where if La Virgen appears, it will probably be in the low-resolution pixels of YouTube."

Mayo – who refrains from reading contemporary work and had pitched his idea for an anthology of great Mexican stories to about 30 publishing houses before being embraced

"Our anthology showcases writers who use the tools of SF to liberate themselves from the tropical languor of old-school magic realism and express the authentic feeling of a media-drunk, technological-mediated, postmodernly alienated contemporary life – one where if La Virgen appears, it will probably be in the low-resolution pixels of YouTube."
– Chris N. Brown



by Small Beer Press, a publishing house that was at first wary of putting out even a small zine devoted to the subject – says of the fantastic: "All science is fiction, but not all fiction is science fiction. Likewise, not all literature of the fantastic is science fiction. The difference between science fiction and literature of the fantastic is that you don't need a mad scientist to write a story of the fantastic, whereas you do need one to write a story of science fiction."

Brown believes that the problem with American science fiction these days is that America has lost the future. He thinks this anthology, along with introducing authors and entertaining its audience, will educate hopeful writers.

"Mexican writers have much to teach us about how to use the science-fictional imagination to envision our lives without the fantastic delusions of utopian or dystopian futures. Mexican writers can teach us how to write science fiction without the future," explains Brown.

For his part, Mayo thinks that American science fiction has not yet recovered from the death of the Polish author Stanisław Lem, and he believes that the best Mexican science fiction writers of today – like Iliana Estañol, whose contribution "In Waiting" reads like a telenovela by Agnès Varda – live in Switzerland. He also feels that the quality of the work in *Three Messages and a Warning* has less to do with *The Gutenberg Galaxy* and more to do with the actual Gutenberg.

"The best Mexican writers whom I have encountered in my lifetime, in or outside of Mexico, chose speculative fiction because they read the Bible as children and realized that they could do better with the genre of the fantastic than the anonymous authors and amanuenses of sacred scripture. The worst," he notes, "probably noticed that Shakespeare sold lots of tickets thanks to the weird sisters of *Macbeth*, and they bet that they might be able to sell as many tickets doing the same, adding tequila and a slice of lime."

BookPeople hosts a reading Thursday, Jan. 26, 7pm, featuring co-editors Eduardo Jiménez Mayo and Chris N. Brown, as well as two authors from the anthology: Bernardo Fernández and Pepe Rojo.

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Jill Magid, *Failed States* (detail), 2012, 1993 Mercedes 300TE station wagon armored at B4 level, resistant to 9MM thru .44 Magnum, collection of Lindsey and Patrick Collins
Lauren Fensterstock, *Mound*, 2010 (detail), Paper, charcoal, and Plexiglas, Dimensions variable, Courtesy of the artist and Sienna Gallery, Lenox, Massachusetts
Steve Wiman, *Tree line*, 2010, Mixed media, 14 x 71½ x 4¾, Courtesy of the artist

AMOA-Arthouse is funded in part by Museum Trustees, Members, and Patrons. Additional support is provided by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division, The Texas Commission on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



EXHIBITIONISM

Austin Symphony Orchestra With Emanuel Ax

**Dell Hall at the Long Center
Jan. 14**

Yo-Yo Ma. Itzhak Perlman. Yefim Bronfman. This is the company kept by Emanuel Ax. Throughout his extraordinary career, the Ukrainian pianist has not only performed with the most esteemed of colleagues: he's played the coveted stages, premiered works by composers such as John Adams and Krzysztof Penderecki (to name just two), been inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and received honorary doctorates from both Yale and Columbia. This weekend, it was Austin audiences who experienced his performances of Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 2* and Szymanowski's *Symphony No. 4 for Piano and Orchestra*.

Ax performed both works with technical rigor to spare. The structural architecture of the Beethoven was finely delineated, as were the fleeting gestures of Szymanowski. The artist's impressive ability to elucidate massive fistfuls of notes was at all times evident and palpable. Yet both works – and especially the Beethoven – unhappily yielded a strong air of compartmentalization. Both within the orchestra and between orchestra and soloist existed a sense of “you play this, now you play this, followed by you playing this,” as opposed to weaving together an inseparable, whole tapestry. Instead of dovetailing from instrument to instrument between short phrases and motivic figures or evoking occasional call-and-response sentiments across the orchestra, it sounded as if little attention had been paid to the give-and-take of symphonic collaboration. By extension, Ax's work at times felt musically distanced from the orchestra (both in terms of interpretation and balance), though solid in the soloistic qualities of its virtuosity.



Emanuel Ax

Somewhat ironically, it was the work on the program with perhaps the least fanfare that left the most indelible mark: Elgar's “Nimrod” variation. The short (and most famous) movement of the *Enigma Variations* was performed in tribute to ASO Assistant Concertmaster Jennifer Bourianoff, who passed away of pneumonia last month at the age of 41. Though one hears extensively melodramatic interpretations of “Nimrod” all too often via its inclusion on every “Greatest Hits of Classical Music” compilation, this rendition was different. Peter Bay led an assured, hopeful version that never reached the unnecessarily bombastic proportions one often hears at the work's climax. Instead, this was a meditation, and it transcended. In fact, it may be my favorite interpretation of this monumental Elgar work that I've ever experienced, as it treated the piece with utmost dignity, fitting for the respects the orchestra offered its colleague and friend. The decrescendo with which the work beautifully fades was followed by a moment of silence and subsequent applause from the orchestra and audience alike, in honor both of Bourianoff and her relatives, who attended. These opening 10 minutes of Saturday evening's concert were, for me, the most heartfelt and transporting.

– Adam Roberts



Pat Snow

I roll over into the dark and I am gone by Pat Snow

'True Story'

grayDUCK Gallery, 608-C W. Monroe, 826-5334

www.grayduckgallery.com

Through Feb. 19

There's a show of artwork by three different people at grayDUCK Gallery, and it's a show that will happily improve your day if you see it. There are three reasons why, and those reasons' names are Paul Beck, Allen Brewer, and Pat Snow.

Paul Beck offers an array of deft and snarky portraits, images that might be created by a minimalist political cartoonist working in house paint and varnish, as well as a series of paintings that make you smile and think, “Of course this guy did animated music videos for Radiohead and David Byrne – yeah, that makes perfect sense.”

Pat Snow, who studied with the Rev. Howard Finster, also brings his portraiture to the grayDUCK walls, along with narrative pieces reminiscent of what Raymond Pettibon might have conjured in a year in which he'd resolved to use more bright colors than even the

Conversations While Dining Alone

**Dougherty Arts Center Theatre,
1110 Barton Springs Rd., 447-4338**

Through Jan. 29

Running time: 1 hr., 35 min.

Have you ever had one of those moments when something about your life becomes clear in a way you're not expecting? You're in the midst of some routine activity – sitting in a fast-food joint, waiting in a doctor's office, driving down the street – and suddenly, that vague unease or fuzzy discontent you'd been feeling about yourself or your life or something in your world sharpens into focus and you see for the first time what's truly bothering you.

Such bolt-from-the-blue realizations are a pretty common phenomenon, as may be seen in *Conversations While Dining Alone*. Playwright-director Ken Johnson cata-

logues some two dozen of them, occurring to people in all walks of life, at all times, and in all kinds of places. He gives each one a turn in the spotlight to talk through some personal epiphany: the waitress beset by overly chatty customers, the attorney preoccupied with homeless people, the widower with regrets about giving away his late wife's dog, the wife desperate to spice up her moribund sex life, the male hustler antagonized by married men stepping out on their wives, and the Junior Leaguer with a habit. For the most part, their tales have no connection, their relationships no ties. They're disparate souls whose only real link is they've all caught a glimpse of themselves in a mirror that the cosmos just dropped in front of them and are driven to speak about it. Johnson doesn't offer many specifics in these characters' histories; he holds largely to the outline of the figure – the person's profession, marital status, defining experience or relationship with someone (or lack thereof)

– and keeps each monologue as simple and straightforward as his staging. Scenes are set with a single piece of furniture or a prop; actors mostly stand still or sit. What matters are the thoughts and feelings given voice: revelations about life.

A number of pieces end with a recording of a familiar song – a pop hit or a hymn – and for some, the character even lip-synchs the words. In a sense, Johnson's sketches work much like pop songs; they capture universal emotional states in a condensed form, grabbing you with a hook (a character's intriguing action or line in place of a melody) and pulling you close with an expression of a situation or feeling to which most everyone can easily relate. And at three minutes apiece, they're about the length of what you'd play on a jukebox. That brevity also works in Johnson's favor with his cast of 12, which includes a broad



Everybody's talkin' at me: Ken Johnson (center) and his cast

range of acting experience. None of them have to sustain a deep or dark emotion, which might test their credibility. Instead, each of them offers their feelings quickly and goes, followed by another – like a succession of songs on the radio, collectively forming a mosaic of the human heart. Johnson has a long history in Austin's theatre community, with many of his contributions in the Seventies and Eighties significantly shaping the scene. How great to have him contributing still, sharing with us this swift parade of humanity coming to a knowledge of itself in mostly small yet meaningful ways.

– Robert Faires

Pantone Matching System could bear. The far gallery wall holding 99 watercolor portraits of Snow's friends arranged in a perfect grid is stunning; individually and as a group, these faces are faces you'd want to be at a party with right before you die.

Allen Brewer is working a technique where he draws or paints portraits *while not looking at the surface he's painting or drawing on*. If the man had no talent or skill to begin with, that would probably look like shit – even if somewhat interesting shit. But with Brewer's stupefying level of draftsmanship, the result is gorgeous and unsettling, generating the sort of subject-intensifying effects that the rest of us would have to invent complicated software to try to do *on purpose*.

This exhibition is called “True Story,” and what else is true is that there are actually *four* reasons you should see this show. The fourth reason is Jill Schroeder, the gallery's owner and curator, who again proves that she knows how to fill a gallery with worthwhile, intriguing yet accessible art.

– Wayne Alan Brenner

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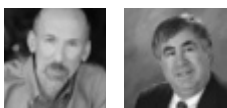


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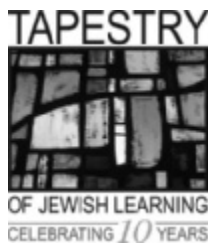
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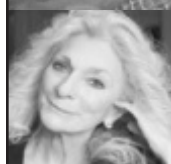
Dan Hicks
& The Hot Licks
1/22



Christopher
Cross
1/27



Walking Woody's Road:
LaFave, Gilkysen,
Cleaves, Hendrix
1/28



Judy
Collins
1/29



Blood, Sweat
& Tears
2/3



Los Lobos
2/4



Women Fully
Clothed
2/7



Jerry Jeff
Walker
2/10



Euge Groove
2/12



George
Winston
2/17, 18 & 19



Chris Hillman &
Herb Pedersen
2/23



Celtic
Crossroads
2/24

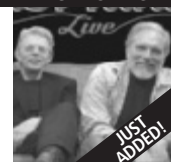


Jon Anderson,
The Voice of Yes
2/26

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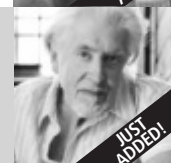
Jake
Shimabukuro
4/5



Hot Tuna
7/17



Dave Koz
4/27



John Mayall
8/17

3/1 RAUL MIDÓN	4/18 KARLA BONOFF	6/17 TUCK & PATTI
3/2 EILEEN IVERS & IMMIGRANT SOUL	4/19 OLIVER RAJAMANI	6/24 POCO
3/8 AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH MONTE MONTGOMERY	4/20 EARL KLUGH BAND	7/17 JUST ADDED HOT TUNA
3/9 JIM BRICKMAN	4/22 DIANE SCHUUR	8/3 JUST ADDED HIROSHIMA
3/11 MELISSA MANCHESTER	4/27 JUST ADDED DAVE KOZ	8/17 JUST ADDED JOHN MAYALL
3/13 GUY CLARK	5/2 PACO DE LUCÍA @ RIVERBEND	8/24 OTTMAR LIEBERT
3/22 COLIN HAY	5/3 DAVID WILCOX	8/31 PAULA POUNDSTONE
3/23 PAULA COLE	5/4 BONEY JAMES	10/7 KEIKO MATSUI
3/25 LEE RITENOUR	5/10 JOHN WAITE	10/19 ARTURO SANDOVAL
3/28 RICKY NELSON REMEMBERED	5/16 MARC COHN	11/2 AVERAGE WHITE BAND
3/30 OLETA ADAMS	5/17 GRAHAM PARKER	JUST ADDED PETER WHITE CHRISTMAS
4/5 JUST ADDED JAKE SHIMABUKURO	5/18 RAMSEY LEWIS SUN GODDESS REVISITED	WITH RICK BRAUN & MINDI ABRAIR
4/13 ACOUSTIC ALCHEMY	5/20 LARRY CARLTON	12/7 JUST ADDED SPYRO GYRA
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GOODNIGHT, SWEET PRINCE

My friend **Rick Johnson Jr.**, partner of **Cliff Redd**, died last week after a two-year battle with cancer. I had a crush on Cliff a long time ago, but that wasn't going to go anywhere, so I just settled for being a dear friend. I was mildly jealous when Rick turned up on Cliff's arm, but Rick wasn't having any of that. He disarmed me and charmed me with his wicked wit, and we became friends. When Rick was diagnosed with cancer, it gave us a special kinship since I, too, was dealing with cancer. It also scared the bejesus out of me, and once Cliff and Rick moved to Galveston, I saw little of them. I'm deeply ashamed of that. My love to Rick and Cliff's extended family.

A FIRM FOUNDATION

Having lost so much weight this past summer and fall has left me resembling a saggy bag of bones (OK, I did gain a couple of pounds during the holidays). While I usually avoid press releases related to women's underwear, the press release from **Leonisa** (www.leonisa.com) for its new **Posture Perfector Firm Control Wireless Bra** caught my eye. Not that I was interested in

the bra, but my sister was. Scanning Leonisa's website, there's even a men's section (called **Leo**) with slimming garments and other underwear for men. I saw the men's black **Upper Body Full-Compression Shaper** and wanted desperately to try it, so I asked for samples of both the bra and the body-shaper. In the blink of an eye, they arrived and we tried them on immediately.

Margaret loves the bra because it makes her aware of her posture, and with Leonisa's clever little gussets under the high-cut armholes, it gives a slimming effect and achieves its goal perfectly. I'm in love with the men's body-shaper. It molds and trims the torso very comfortably, like a vest closing up the front with a series of hooks covered by a zipper. It's a tough garment, and it does a tough job. I'm just not the gym type, so I watch my weight and let Leonisa do the rest.

GAULTIER GOLD

One of the dying breed of truly original over-the-top designers is **Jean-Paul Gaultier**. With **Gianni Versace** and **Alexander McQueen** gone, and **John Galliano** laying low (for now – he may not ever be forgiven entirely, but he *will* return, of course), Gaultier

rules the world as far as I'm concerned. I'm in an absolute *lather* about seeing the fabulously extensive Gaultier exhibit at the **Dallas Museum of Art** (hurry – it closes Feb. 12). Making its U.S. debut, it is the first exhibit devoted solely to JPG. Most of the 130 couture gowns, along with the prêt-à-porter and accessories, have never been on exhibit before, especially JPG's early work dating back to 1976. Sections of the exhibition called "The Odyssey of Jean Paul Gaultier," "The Boudoir," "Skin Deep," "Punk Cancan," "Urban Jungle," and "Metropolis" will bring us up to date (as of 2010, anyway). The exhibition will travel to a number of other destinations. Hopefully, the museum will have fun Gaultier-bilia in the gift shop. But there's one Gaultier item that you can *only* get in Dallas, no matter where the exhibition is: **Dillon Gage Metals** (www.dil-longage.com) in Dallas is the only U.S. establishment to offer the **1-ounce solid gold ingot** designed by Jean-Paul himself.

Imagine! One side of the gold bar is engraved with a heart (with Gaultier's trademark sailor stripe) amid radiating rays and a banner displaying the name Jean-Paul Gaultier. They sound scrumptious, don't they? (Don't confuse them with all that gold-foil-covered-candy you have left from the holidays.) If you had fabulous JPG gold ingots, you sure wouldn't want to hide them in a vault. You'd want everyone to see them. I think these beauties ought to be the new gold standard. Can you imagine walking into, say, **Neiman-Marcus** and trying to pay for your purchases with JPG gold ingots? *Tres* glamorous. Trying to pay for your purchases at 7-Eleven with JPG gold ingots? Not so glamorous.



Executive director of the Hill Country Ride for AIDS, David C. Smith and partner Skot Tulk at the HCRA fundraising kick-off party.

Write to our Style Avatar with your related events, news, and hautey bits: style@austinchronicle.com or PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765.

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FOOD

H-E-B Mi Tienda

9414 N. Lamar, 835-5400

After a couple of neighborhood successes in Houston, H-E-B has brought its Hispanic-influenced Mi Tienda (“my store”) concept to the Austin market. When it came time to refresh the 30-year-old store at the corner of Rundberg Lane and Lamar Boulevard, the company evaluated the area demographics followed by customer surveys and decided the time was right for a store designed to appeal to a large Hispanic immigrant population. The remodel brought with it 6,000 square feet of additional retail space and 40 new employees. The recent debut with food tastings and giveaways received an enthusiastic reception from the neighborhood.

Shoppers entering the store’s south doors discover a greatly expanded produce department with a dizzying selection of freshly cut fruits and vegetables – a couple of employees were busy cutting the spines off of fresh nopales (cactus pads) the day we visited. Facing the produce department is the in-store masa factory and tortilla press where packages of fresh, white-corn masa sit alongside some flavored with strawberry, pineapple, and chile. The in-store tortilla machines put out a ready supply of white-corn tortillas, as well as flour. The corn tortillas became fairly soft and pliable when heated on the comal, but the Mi Tienda flour tortillas were the true find. Especially soft and thin, with just the right shortening-to-flour ratio, they made a good base for breakfast tacos and became delightfully crisp, delicate *buñuelos* when deep-fried in canola oil and dusted with cinnamon sugar.



Around the corner from the tortilla line is the in-store bakery with an abundance of brightly colored Mexican pastries, dainty Mexican wedding cookies, tables piled high with packaged *rosca de reyes* cakes for celebrating Epiphany, elaborately decorated cakes for special occasions, and three flavors of *tres leches* cakes – plain, *dulce de leche*, and chocolate. Along the back wall of the store, a deli offers several flavors of fresh salsas and *cremas*, prepared foods such as rotisserie chickens, and an extensive selection of packaged meats and cheeses imported from Mexico. The meat market here is an authentic *carnicería* (Mexican butcher shop) featuring chorizos and several cuts of seasoned, fresh meats prepared daily in the store. Store aisles are stocked with familiar American-made products, as well as brands imported from Mexico and other Hispanic countries. Our first visit left us hungry for more.

– V.B.W.

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Peace Through Pie Socials were a popular method of celebrating the Martin Luther King holiday during the past week. What started as a single pie social at Austin’s historic **Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church** four years ago has blossomed into a delicious movement bringing people together around pies. The coolest email I received invited guests to “Come eat our homework” as the combined culinary programs from Travis High School in Austin and Connally High School in Pflugerville presented a “No Place for Hate” MLK pie social.

Chronicle contributing food writer MM Pack reports that **Confituras’** bourbon-brown-sugar peach preserves, Rumble Cask Reserve from **Balcones Distilling**, and **Independence Brewing Co.’s** Convict Hill oatmeal stout earned prizes at the **Good Food Awards** in San Francisco last week.

The **Natural Epicurean Academy of Culinary Arts** (1700 S. Lamar) will award three \$5,000, merit-based scholarships for the upcoming session of the school’s professional chef training program. These scholarships are available to professionals in the fields of yoga training, health care, and macrobiotics, and the deadline for applications is Jan. 27. Get more info at 476-2276 or info@naturalepicurean.com.

Sputnik, a Russian imperial coffee-oatmeal stout from **Austin Beerworks** and **Cuvée Coffee Roasting Company**, makes its draft debut at the Austin premiere of *Man on a Mission* at the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar, Friday, Jan. 20, 7pm. Sputnik drafts will also be served during screenings of the film at the Alamo Drafthouse Village (Feb. 1) and the Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek (Feb. 9).

Executive Chef **Phillip Brown** and pastry chef **Jill Schweder** from Austin’s Vince Young Steakhouse present a dinner at the prestigious James Beard House in New York City this weekend.

Project Transitions has more themed dinners than ever listed in the **Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner** invitations this year, but do reserve quickly. Didn’t get an invite? Call 454-8646.

Longtime Austin chef **Ruben Rodriguez** passed away last week at age 54. He is survived by his wife Juanita and their four children, three grandchildren, and a large extended family. A native of Guanajuato, Mexico, Rodriguez began his Austin culinary career in a Holiday Inn kitchen in 1976 and spent many years at the Hilton Highland Mall, where he acquired his skills for producing elegant garnishes and ice sculptures. Striking out on their own, Ruben and Juanita operated **Evita’s Botanitas**, which was famous for Ruben’s award-winning signature salsas served with a selection of Tex-Mex and Interior Mexican dishes. Illness forced Ruben’s retirement in 2010 and, like so many independent restaurant owners, he had no health insurance. To help out with the family’s medical and funeral expenses, fans and friends can send checks to Juanita Rodriguez at 205 Ainsworth, Austin, TX 78745.

Zinfandels for the 99%

I was discussing wines with my friend Doug who loves Zinfandels. He had just discovered the Costco store-brand version (\$14) and was giddy over the cost-to-quality ratio. I almost always concur about its wines. I don’t often recommend them since you have to have a membership, but they make terrific varietals that you can buy with confidence. Sadly,



Zinfandels have become strange beasts. They used to be big, blockbuster, Italian-style wines, primed for an immense bowl of pasta or a slab of lasagna. Then folks with money started bidding them up, and the wines moved either toward over-oaked vanilla bombs or quiet, English-style Clarets. Suddenly, wineries like Biale, Martinelli, Turley, and Carlisle thought \$75-100 a bottle seemed fair for Zinfandel. What happened to our \$10 treats? Well, it turns out one maker is still out there taking care of those of us

who drink wine nightly. It’s a winery that has its share of \$75 wines and big awards, but it’s also a winery that started with the 99% and is definitely not forgetting its roots, and that’s **Gallo**. It makes three styles of Zinfandel worth searching for: **Dancing Bull** is the cheapest, the **Gallo Family Vineyards Sonoma County** label is the most restrained, and the **Rancho Zabaco Sonoma Heritage Vines** is most reminiscent of the old Cal-Ital powerhouse versions. Gallo and Rancho Zabaco make Zinfandel at multiple price points, but it’s these three starter wines that interest me. Just like the old days: Here are lusty food wines that run \$8-12 and always deliver the goods. Plus, they’re available everywhere.



Meal Times Jan. 19-29

- This month’s **Slow Food Austin happy hour** will be held at Contigo (2027 Anchor), with \$5 cocktails and special menu items from chef Andrew Wiseheart. RSVP at www.slowfoodaustin.org. Thursday, Jan. 19, 5:30-8pm.
- The 10 wineries along the **Fredericksburg Wine Road 290** host pairings of Port wines with such delectable foods as chocolates and cheeses. See more details and a map at www.wineroad290.com. Saturday, Jan. 21, 10am-6pm.
- **Resolution Gardens** and **5 Mile Farms** (5213 Jim Hogg Ave.) present a class on how to build your own herb spiral. Free for CSA members; \$5 for the public. Saturday, Jan. 21, 10am-2pm.

- **Chinese New Year** is Monday, Jan. 23. Among the celebrations: Imperia Sushi Bar & Lounge (310 Colorado) will have passed appetizers, drink specials, and entertainment; Din Ho Chinese BBQ (8557 Research #116) hosts dragon dancers in the parking lot and Tien Jin (4534 West Gate) will be open for dinner in honor of the new year.
- Doug English hosts the second annual **Tequila Bash** at Jack Allen’s Kitchen (7720 Hwy. 71 W.) to benefit the Lone Star Paralysis Foundation. Five top area chefs will present dishes paired with cocktails made with six elite tequilas. Tickets are \$200 per person at www.lonestarparalysis.org. Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6pm.
- **Supper Friends** hosts a dinner at the Swoop House (3012 Gonzales) prepared by chef Jay Huang. \$75 per person; check out the menu at www.supperfriends.com and reserve at 467-6600. Thursday, Jan. 26, 6pm.
- The craft of the cocktail is a hot conference topic these days, and the newest such gathering is the **San Antonio Cocktail Conference**, with parties and seminars at various locations in the Alamo City’s vibrant downtown. The presenters include Austin mixologists David Alan, Nate Wales, Cesar Aguilar, and Bill Norris, and events are geared toward both professionals and enthusiasts. Buy tickets for individual parties and seminars at www.sanantoniococktailconference.com. Thursday-Sunday, Jan. 26-29. – V.B.W.



Barista/
coffee
consultant
Patrick Pierce
of Briggo coffee

To Serve Man

Briggo: an Austin company at the crossroads of taste, technology, and social interaction

BY MM PACK

Picture this scenario: You're deep into a busy day and it's time for a good cup of coffee, made just the way you like it. On your computer or cell phone, you access a website or application, log in, and order your favorite concoction – say, espresso with one pump of vanilla syrup, no sugar, and a splash of soy milk – and pay for it via your stored account. In a nearby kiosk, a robot barista receives your order and prepares your drink to your specifications. You receive a text message or email telling you exactly how many minutes till it's ready. You head for the kiosk, pick up your steaming cup, and get on with your day.

Welcome to the world of Briggo coffee, an Austin start-up whose mission is to add a brand-new dimension to coffee-drinking options away from home. Its goal is to provide fresh, meticulously prepared, individualized coffee to consumers in situations where it hasn't been readily available. Think nonstandard working hours; think hospitals, airports, convention centers, universities, office buildings – places that can't support full coffee shops 24/7 and where the caffeine-deprived have traditionally relied on vending machines.

But wait, isn't this automated approach just a variation of a vending machine? Well, no, not really. Briggo's coffee is prepared by a computer-driven robot instead of a human barista, so yes, it's a machine that delivers coffee. But there the resemblance ends. Beginning with the ingredients and continuing through a careful coffee-making process, the focus on quality and attention to detail produces individually prepared cups that are aromatic, flavorful, and rich, in no way resembling the dubious brown liquid dispensed from vending machines.

Briggo purchases organic, Fair Trade coffee beans from the Cafe Femenino Coffee Project that represents a collective of women growers in Peru; the green coffee beans are roasted in Austin by Third Coast Coffee Roasting Company. The 1883 de Philibert Routin syrups are manufactured in France, the chai is organic, and the coffee cups and lids are compostable.

As for the process, the robot is programmed to mimic the actions of a human barista. When a Briggo customer orders a coffee drink (and not before), the beans are measured to a tenth of a gram and ground in a Swiss burr grinder that adjusts appropriately for the drink ordered. Coffee for espresso is tamped and sealed in a chamber, and 200-degree water is introduced at nine bars of pressure (as a barista does). A brewed coffee takes 15-30 seconds to make; espresso drinks, from 1½ to 2½ minutes. After each drink is prepared, the system self-cleans, ready for the next shot.

"Our purpose is to tightly control the entire process to the highest standards," says Briggo founder Charles Studor. "We're after precision, repeatability, consistency, as well as coffee quality. Customers can be confident that when they enter their order they'll get exactly the same result as the last time they ordered it. Robots never have an off day."

Studor, the company's chief technology officer, comes from a 30-year background in the semiconductor industry. His inspiration for the integrated system evolved from converging ideas and interests. While doing nonprofit work in Honduras, he fell in love with the consistently delicious and creamy coffee available there. He observed growing trends in the U.S. of self-service applica-

tions such as DVD-rental kiosks. And he was fascinated by the exploding phenomenon of social networking via computers and cell phones. Combining these elements, he developed a prototype in his garage for a system that ultimately brought together good coffee, robotics, cloud technology, and social-media interaction. But with a nod to legacy, Studor says, "The name Briggo is in honor of my grandfather's company, the Briggs Machine Tool Company of Syracuse, New York."

Briggo's leadership team includes CEO Kevin Nater, a former CEO of Dell Financial Services, and Chief Information Officer John Craparo, retired from General Electric, Dell, and Hewlett-Packard. Their collective business and high-tech skills combine with the professional coffee expertise of barista/coffee consultant Patrick Pierce, previously with Austin's acclaimed Caffé Medici.

After three years in development, Briggo's first coffee kiosk was installed last November inside UT's Flawn Academic Center (previously the Undergraduate Library). "About 10,000 students and employees a day pass through the building," says Nater. "It seemed like a good spot for us to get started." The company plans several Austin-area installations in 2012.

The system is housed in a giant enclosed box with two service hatches, a computer touch screen, and a credit-card swipe. (Customers can order coffee on the spot via the same user interface displayed on the website and the phone app.) Orders in the queue (placed both remotely and on-site) are displayed by user name on a large screen on the kiosk's facade; each shows the number of minutes till the order is ready.

From behind the facade, you can hear the familiar sounds of beans grinding and steam hissing as the robot processes orders. It's easy to imagine a humanoid C-3PO figure furiously cranking out espressos, but in actuality, the robot is a complex interacting mechanical system controlled by sophisticated computer algorithms. Behind the streamlined user interface, the Briggo apparatus is clearly descended from such implements as were made by the Briggs Machine Tool Company – updated by the wonders of modern technology.

Lest you're disconcerted by the idea of totally automated coffee production, there's a cheerful human attendant present to explain the installation, answer questions, and walk newcomers through the process if needed. Also, as Pierce explains, "While we could fine-tune the coffee-making process from bean to cup, there was no way we could replicate customers interacting with the system through social media. So a development team member is on-site full-time for now, observing and learning from the customers, and tweaking things as needed."

There will always be a human presence to every Briggo installation; someone's got to periodically replenish the beans and other ingredients. And not just to keep things running, but also because part of the coffee-drinking experience is social, as the company well knows. "We're very interested in the human interaction aspect," says Studor, "both online and around the kiosk." At the Flawn Center, adjacent couches and tables encourage convivial coffee consumption.

So what do the customers think of Briggo so far? Christy, who preferred not to give her surname, is a UT employee working upstairs. "I watched the demo when they first installed the kiosk, and I was hooked immediately," she says. "I buy coffee here every day. I order on my cell phone, and by the time I hit the stairs, I get a text saying my drink is ready. I don't have to leave the building for a decent coffee; that's been great in the cold and rainy weather."

It's a fact that coffee drinkers have decided opinions and habits developed through a daily relationship with their coffee; they know how they like it, and they want it to be made that way. Customer Glenn Dembowski, a UT IT employee, visits the Briggo kiosk at least once a day. "The coffee is good," he says. "It's important to me that they use quality beans and that the system remembers my preferences. And it's kind of cool being involved as the operation gets started. It's a local company; it's high-tech; they use Fair Trade coffee; cups are compostable; I like the people – it's what Austin is all about."

Last fall, a public relations strategy class, taught by PR professionals Jeff Hunt and Paul Walker in the UT School of Communications, used Briggo as a real-world case study for marketing and research and analysis. When the team presented its recommendations to Briggo,

findings showed that the social experience is important to their customers. The company was impressed enough to engage two of the students as spring semester interns who, according to Nater, "will be implementing several of the recommendations This is very exciting for Briggo and will allow us to better understand the university

environment and connect with the students, faculty, and staff." As Hunt, the class' professor, says, "Never underestimate the power of students in this age of social media."

So yeah, the barista may be a robot, but it seems the optimal coffee experience still turns on two critical factors: consistent, delicious, and customizable coffee in conjunction with social interaction, be it face-to-face or via a mobile platform. As some things change, some just don't. ■

For information about Briggo, to create an account, or to access the ordering system, go to the company's website at www.briggo.com.

*"It's a local company;
it's high-tech; they use
Fair Trade coffee; cups
are compostable; I like
the people – it's what
Austin is all about."
– Glenn Dembowski,
satisfied customer*

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Dominik Stein and Michael Heyne met during their freshman year in college at WHU Otto Beisheim School of Management just northwest of Frankfurt, Germany. They had many college-oriented fast-food items to choose from – including the *currywurst* sausage roll, the *brötchen* sandwich, *frikandel* (a Dutch fried minced-meat log), the *halbe hähnchen* (half a chicken), pizza, and countless American chains – but their favorite food was the *döner kebab*, pronounced “DUHr-nah,” meaning “spinning meat.”

The döner kebab is a thing of beauty. Originally brought to Germany by Turkish immigrants during the reconstruction after World War II, in its homeland, the döner kebab consisted of sliced meat, tomatoes, and onions on a plate, served with a dab of yogurt. In 1971, one Turkish vendor in Berlin got the bright idea to pack what used to be on a plate into a pita, and the döner kebab of today was almost fully hatched. That pita then morphed into a thin, fluffy flat bread, completely unique from a pita or

a Mideast flat bread. Now there are 17,000 döner kebab restaurants in Germany, and the number continues to rise. No wonder Germans were hooked on them. Cut to 2009: Stein and Heyne were now at UT's McCombs MBA program, and döner kebabs were half a world away.

“Sounds like a gyro or a shawarma,” you say. We said the same, except that there are some crucial differences. First of all, döner kebabs taste better. The meat is not a processed, compressed meat log, but instead consists of thin, Turkish-spice-marinated slices of 90% beef and 10% lamb (or chicken): Texas-raised, stacked on the skewer layer by layer, and cooked as it spins around the vertical grill. As the meat spins around, it's shaved off to order with what resembles a handheld electric planer.

The stone-baked, light-as-air bread makes the sandwich, and you get a choice of lettuce, red cabbage, tomatoes, red onion, cucumber, corn, and feta (75 cents extra) for toppings. You can also order a carrot, potato, and celery stir-fry instead of meat. Sauces come in a five varieties: the house sauce (yogurt and dill), garlic (our favorite), spicy red (jalapeño-based), hot (habanero-based), and vinaigrette. We can't imagine why you wouldn't want the bread, but you can also get the sandwich in wrap or salad form. It costs \$6.45; it weighs in at 580 calories; it's fresh, made from very high-quality ingredients, and it's delicious.

It must have been the engineering in their genes, but shortly after opening two locations, the guys decided to open the Guinness World Record-holding Smallest Food Truck housed in a 2011 Smart car. They were able to cram refrigeration units, food warmers, and sinks into the back, running on a couple of batteries, and functioning inside a pop-up screen shell. The plan is to operate at a location for 90

minutes, reload at base, then sprint off to another location for 90 minutes. “It's very resource- and energy-efficient,” says Stein, “and Austin already knew the car from its Car2Go program. It fits the Austin food scene perfectly.”

The two have added breakfast items to the menu, served as a wrap and filled with eggs, veggies, and beef/lamb, chicken, or bacon for \$3 (two for \$5). They also have a gorgeous and gleaming La Marzocco espresso machine and use top quality beans. Stein and Heyne are certainly ambitious, but they've jumped into the Austin food scene thoughtfully and brought us a new ethnic option that's fresh, healthy, affordable, and delicious.

– Mick Vann



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From the Chronicle Restaurant Guide

austinchronicle.com/restaurant

RECENTLY REVIEWED

French Quarter Grille

Meals begin with baskets of warm rolls paired with the house herb butter, but save room for desserts such as croissant bread pudding and orange-infused crème brûlée. Rib Eye Pontchartrain, French Quarter Salmon, and Chicken Benjamin round out the list of New Orleans favorites on the menu. Folk-art murals and Mardi Gras masks evoke the French Quarter as much as the cuisine here. **13000 N. I-35 #600, 832-9090**

JOHN ANDERSON



WE [HEART] COFFEEHOUSES!

Out of some 199 bakeries and coffeehouses in our Restaurant Guide, here are a few of our favorites.

1886 Cafe & Bakery If you're wandering past the Driskill Hotel, don't overlook this place. The cafe has had a face-lift and acquired a new chef. Be sure to sample the pricey but delicious selection of baked goods. **The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos.**

360 Primo Coffee Bar Segafredo Zanetti espresso, Bindi cakes, and gelato imported from Italy are offered here, as well as light breakfast and lunch fare. **9828 Great Hills Trail #120.**

Arturo's Around the corner from El Mercado, you'll find Mexican fare, sandwiches, burgers, and smoothies to enjoy in the expansive basement dining area. **314 W. 17th.**

Austin Java Cafe & Bar Beyond the morning cup o' joe, Austin Java offers an array of sustenance plus luscious desserts. **1608 Barton Springs Rd.**

Baguette et Chocolat In addition to a full espresso bar and French bakery, there's an extensive menu including quiches, *croque-monsieurs*, and sweet and savory crepes. Sandwiches are available as paninis or on a fresh half-baguette, and all breads and pastries are baked in-house. **12101 FM 2244.**

Bennu Coffee In addition to a full complement of coffee and tea beverages, Bennu offers pastries and prepared foods from local companies 24 hours a day. **2001 E. MLK.**

Bouldin Creek Coffeehouse Pick up a book, play *Battleship*, and enjoy all your favorite coffee drinks along

with some killer honey lemonade. It also has a great vegetarian menu. **1900 S. First.**

Bountiful Bakery & Cafe Lunchtime finds a crowd enjoying comforting soups and distinctive sandwiches, including the BLT made with fried green tomatoes. Don't overlook the cookies, luxuriously decorated cupcakes, or fabulous pies. **3201 Bee Caves Rd. #106.**

Cafe Mundi This treasured Eastside coffeehouse has returned in the form of a truck with beautiful outdoor seating and the same great coffees and treats you love. **801 Tillery.**

Caffé Medici Here it's all about perfectly prepared coffee. Period. **1101 West Lynn.**

Dolce Vita It offers a delicious assortment of handmade Italian gelatos and fruit sorbets, but don't overlook the savory selections. The *caprese* salad with creamy pesto will whet your appetite for a gooey panini of chicken, roasted pepper, and provolone. Or have the *caprese* as a panini. The variety of coffee drinks, spirits, and cordials makes this a neighborhood favorite. **4222 Duval St.**

Mi Victoria Aside from a wide assortment of Mexican pastries and cookies, you'll find excellent breakfast tacos here. Buy menudo, picadillo beef, and barbacoa by the pound on weekends. **5245 Burnet Rd.**

Mozart's Coffee Roasters When the weather is fine, the 300-seat deck on Lake Austin is the perfect place to drink a fresh cup of coffee (roasted on-site) and take in some music. **3825 Lake Austin Blvd.**

Pacha You'll find superior coffee drinks at this relaxed and comfortable neighborhood hangout. Step up to the counter for tasty breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, too. **4618 Burnet Rd.**

Panaderia Chuy The aromas that greet you at the door of this authentic Mexican bakery do not lie. The breads, rolls, cookies, and pastries are the stuff of sweet dreams. **8716 Research #290; 801 E. William Cannon #125.**

Quack's 43rd Street Bakery Carrying on the slacker side of Austin tradition, Quack's is a great place to luxuriate over coffee and a Rockstar bagel. The baked goods are enormous. **411 E. 43rd.**

The Steeping Room Tearooms are making a comeback just in time for the moist cupcakes and delicate tea sandwiches here. You'll find a selection of small plates, salads, and daily soups here, plus gluten-free menu items and heavenly gluten-free desserts. **The Domain, 11410 Century Oaks Terrace #112.**

Sweetish Hill Bakery & Cafe This well-loved institution has earned its reputation with excellent cakes and pastries. The lunch offerings – great soups and sandwiches on fresh-baked bread – don't disappoint either. **1120 W. Sixth.**

The Upper Crust Bakery The atmosphere here is punctuated by newspapers left behind at wooden tables, as well as by mothers and little girls enjoying a midmorning snack. Cinnamon roll aficionados should try Upper Crust's version, a refined taste treat that refuses to overwhelm the cinnamon with stickiness. Stop by at lunchtime for soups, salads, and sandwiches, and maybe bring a cake back to the office. **4508 Burnet Rd.**

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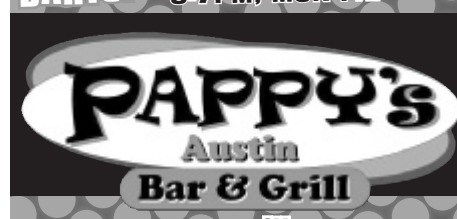
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PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

A Watery Grave Narrowly Avoided

35MM PRINTS OF LOST HK ACTIONERS UNSPOOL IN THE ALAMO'S ASIAN INVASION SERIES

By Marc Savlov

It looks like an ossuary in here, minus the bones. Instead, moldering cardboard boxes – chest high, a dozen deep, water damaged, and thoroughly dusted with the detritus of trans-Pacific travel – line the corrugated aluminum walls of an unnamed, unremarkable storage facility in North Austin.

This is in fact not a graveyard, as such, but more of a rebirth in process, the vast haul of a cinematic rescue mission undertaken by the Alamo Drafthouse and its affiliated American Genre Film Archive. Inside each of these boxes – hundreds of them – are six to 10 reels of 35mm motion-picture film, many unknown or unheard of outside the land of their origin, China. And if it hadn't been for the Alamo's collective collector's spirit, the entire lot would be sitting on the ocean floor somewhere off the coast of California.

"We heard about a film depot in San Francisco from our friends at the New York Asian Film Festival," explains Alamo programmer/AGFA adviser Lars Nilsen. "This specific depot was used by a number of now-defunct distributors who at one time used it to store all of their North American Chinese prints. But because there's no longer any market for commercial Hong Kong films on 35mm, the least expensive way to dispose of these films would have been to put them on a barge, take them out to the middle of the Pacific, and dump them overboard. They just don't have any value anymore, except to people like us."

For now, most of these sprockety treasures remain in their rat-gnawed boxes; it's going to take a lot of time, effort, and allergy meds to identify, examine, and catalog everything here. But in the meantime, the Alamo's monthly Asian Invasion series of new discoveries and rare finds culled from this extraordinary salvage expedition, continues to thrill HK cinema fans and newcomers alike. Next up is the rarely seen 1981 epic *Dreadnaught* from Fantastic Fest Lifetime Achievement Awardee Yuen Woo-ping. Yes, we know it's rare, but is it *great*?

"It's not just great," deadpans Nilsen. "It's a fucking masterpiece of world cinema. It really is. It's not like a Bergman film, OK, it doesn't have the high seriousness of that, but it's a film by people who lived and worked within a specific artistic tradition. Everyone in this film grew up in the Chinese Opera and learned, as children, how to do horrible acrobatic things that you should never force children to do and had their very minds molded into that very, very old tradition. They then carried that tradition on into filmmaking, and by the time *Dreadnaught* was made, Yuen Woo-ping was simply a master, any way you want to look at it. And it's just a masterful movie all the way around." ■

Dreadnaught screens at the Alamo Drafthouse Ritz, Sunday, Jan. 22, 10:30pm. The Alamo will also host a 10-hour Hong Kong movie marathon on Feb. 25 to benefit the American Genre Film Archive. See www.drafthouse.com for details.

Have you been reading our Screens blog, Picture in Picture? How about following us on Twitter? No? For shame. Here's what you've missed: **South by Southwest Film** brings out the big guns (**Joss Whedon**, **Judd Apatow**); **Alamo Slaughter** gets an opening date; **Heather Courtney** wins the Independent Spirit's Truer Than Fiction Award for *Where Soldiers Come From* and a swag bag with a \$25,000 grant; the **Austin Film Society's** Director of Artist Services **Bryan Poyser** is stepping down in March and prepping a new movie; cassette culture doc *Rewind This!* trends big; and **Byron Brown** should be the new face of Doritos, but sadly, is not. Want more? Check us out at austinchronicle.com/pip and @ACScreens.

The Jumping-Off Point

KAT CANDLER CONTINUES HER CHRONICLES OF YOUTHFUL FRENZY IN 'HELLION'

By Marc Savlov

It wouldn't be winter in Park City, Utah, without a brace of Austin filmmakers entering the annual Sundance/Slamdance fray, and this year is no exception. Nine Austin filmmakers, among them alumni like Kyle Henry (*Fourplay*) and David and Nathan Zellner (*Kid-Thing*), will be heading west along with their producers, casts, and assorted crew. With stories and styles ranging from animation to shorts to features, the Austin film scene will be, as ever, well represented in Park City. Produced by Kelly Williams, Kat Candler's Sundance 2012 entry, "Hellion," is a case in point – and classic Kat, too: a short film with huge emotions. Bad kids, sad kids, angry dads, and plenty of Candler's trademark comic yet earnest heart make for a memorably fractious collision of brotherly responsibility and shared adolescent rage. It's instantly identifiable as a Candler film, anchored by powerhouse performances from three tweener leads (Deke Garner, Tommy Hohl, Arthur Dale), and, like so much of Candler's work, easily and knowingly slips inside the headspace of both its young protagonist and his bullying brothers with an empathetic ease that dazzles in its playful naturalism.

"I love all things kids," says Candler, "and I love all things teenage. I think I still live in that world in my head a lot."

Both of Candler's previous features, her 2000 debut *Cicadas* (which won that year's Audience Award at the Austin Film Festival) and 2006's *Jumping Off Bridges*, bobbed amidst the choppy waters of childhood milieus, often with dark parental overtones. (Similar themes will doubtless arise in her upcoming feature *Nikki Is a Punk Rocker*.)

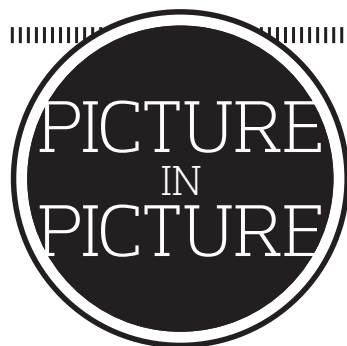
Throughout her work, there's a realistic undercurrent of tension between kids and their parents, and adulthood is rarely seen as a safe haven.

"I'm pretty much a sucker for anything that involves parents and children. It doesn't matter what type of film it is, either. I love horror films, but I think the greatest of them involve the parent-child dynamic. For whatever reason, I respond to youth."

As for her incredibly naturalistic portraits of youth in and out of peril, it's worth noting that despite the absolute narrative realism of, say, *Jumping Off Bridges*, which explores the repercussions of a parental suicide on a close-knit group of teenage friends, Candler's stories are born less as screenplays to be shot than stories to be told.

"I got my degree in creative writing, and I never had the class or the instruction on how to write a script or the craft of screenwriting. It was always much more about how to tell a good story, first and foremost. In the last several years, I've gone back and studied screenwriting [she's taught screenwriting at Texas State University and is currently a lecturer at the University of Texas] and I've been really trying to hone those skills. The art of storytelling is where I've probably grown the most [since *Cicadas*]. With the camera and stuff, you grow innately from film to film to film. But ultimately, everything goes back to having a good story, crafting good characters, and trying to create those edge-of-your-seat moments that make a film so memorable." ■

"Hellion" world premieres Jan. 21 at the Sundance Film Festival, with additional screenings throughout the fest.



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METAL
ELECTRONICA/CLUB DJ
HIP-HOP/RAP
INDIE
JAZZ
BLUES/SOUL/FUNK
INSTRUMENTAL
AVANT-GARDE/EXPERIMENTAL
COUNTRY/BLEUGRASS
ROOTS ROCK
FOLK
LATIN TRADITIONAL
LATIN ROCK
WORLD MUSIC
COVER BAND
U-18 (MAJORITY OF MEMBERS UNDER 18)
NONE OF THE ABOVE

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MALE VOCALS
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ACOUSTIC GUITAR
BASS
DRUMS/PERCUSSION
KEYBOARDS
STRING PLAYER(S)
HORN PLAYER(S)
MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT
SONGWRITER

MUSIC RELATED

NEW CLUB
LIVE MUSIC VENUE
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ALL-AGES VENUE
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RADIO STATION
RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION)
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AUSTIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR

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MUSIC

Chris Gray outside
the Continental Club



MARGARET MOSER

I May Be Old, but I Frequented All the Best Clubs

Ever spent so many hours in a live music venue it felt like home? You know, the patrons for whom the lure of leaning on the bar calls like a siren, and I don't mean the ones zooming down Red River on a Saturday night.

I've had the good fortune to call many local clubs home since the Seventies. As a teenager, before I arrived in Austin, I couldn't wait for the time when I could go to nightclubs. Club life seemed so exciting – the music, the trendy clothes, dancing nonstop, the smoky glitter of neon and bar glass – a world so far away to a suburban San Antonio teen like myself, alive only on the big and small screens and breathless syndicated columns describing nightly routines of divine decadence.

Then again, it was the Sixties, when rock & roll was the domain of youth, something it stopped being in the following decade when adults who'd started playing as kids didn't quit. **Sam Kinsey's Teen Canteen** was the mecca for kids in the Alamo City. In fact, teen clubs were everywhere then: community centers, pizza parlors, roller rinks, soda shops, churches. It made perfect sense since rarely did adults deign to rock & roll back then. What if you needed a license to listen to rock & roll over the age of 30, 40, 50, or 60?

Pffft! A silly notion, although my sainted late ex-husband **Rollo Banks** decreed in 1993 that "No more music be made for three years so we can listen to everything out there." I was thinking about that last Sunday during the **Chris Gray** benefit at the **Continental Club**, watching the very U-18 band **Residual Kid** take on **Radiohead** and thinking how badly teens need their own clubs like the Teen Canteen. The Canteen wasn't special. It simply booked local and regional teen groups with an occasional touring act. It just so happened that the bands included those now considered Texas'

garage rock kings: **Billy Gibbons'** pre-**ZZ Top** crew the **Moving Sidewalks** and South Texas fuzzbusters the **Zakary Thaks**.

Yes, I'm a walking cliché: "I may be old but I saw all the good bands." And yet, years after I stopped living in clubs, they're still alluring. Hearing that **Emo's** new **Beauty Bar** spin-off, the **Beauty Ballroom**, re-announced its grand opening weekend for January 27 and 28 is more than just another bellwether of local live music venues shifting from overpriced Downtown locations to something more affordable. And with better parking. Parking is pretty much what drove me out of going Downtown to clubs.

"Just give us those three scuzzy blocks on Red River," announced **Pachanga Latino Music Festival** founder **Rich Garza**, who sat next to me on the **Music Commission** a couple of years ago, expressing his frustration with the improvements along Waller Creek – imagined by some as Austin's future answer to San Antonio's River Walk. His words were guileless and eloquent and prescient: **Emo's** migrated east to Riverside Drive and **Justine's** became the hippest place east or west of I-35. That was around the year **Shangri-La** was voted Best New Club in *The Austin Chronicle* Music Poll. It is a very fun place, also east of the highway, one that doesn't host live music.

The blocks from 11th Street down past Eighth on Red River have been the heart of music in Austin for decades predating the rock era. That's best illustrated by the **New Orleans Club** bills of the mid-Sixties that featured lounge pianist and singer **Ernie Mae Miller** downstairs (see "The Miller's Tale," Jul. 6, 2007) and Texas psych architects the **13th Floor Elevators** upstairs. And if you've ever traveled to a place

where the very earth has meaning – the **Alamo** or the pyramids or **Stonehenge** or **Barton Springs** on the first baking hot day – you feel that gravitas within. I feel it standing at the corner of Eighth and Red River.

Before it was **Stubb's**, the **One Knite** rented space at that location in the early Seventies, a dingy little bar well-documented in the lead of my **Doyle Bramhall** cover story (see "Life by the Drop," Feb. 21, 2003). It was my first club home in Austin, at a time when those blocks of real estate held no value to anyone except those with their eye on the future. Other club homes came along quickly for me – the **Soap Creek Saloon** and **Antone's** – but the old stardust remained on Red River. It's worth pointing out that **Emo's** East and the Beauty Ballroom are actually reclaiming long-abandoned club turf on Riverside Drive.

Taking over the address, **Emo's** today conjures the **Back Room** – the pole that used to be in front of the latter's stage now guards the former's back corner bar – but even the version of the beloved hard rock club that closed in 2006 wasn't in its first location there. The original Back Room was a smaller space in the strip mall below, where the liquor store resides. More importantly, **Mother Earth**, the ultimate and rarely cited Austin rock club of the Seventies, also relocated to Riverside Drive after a fire burned out its 10th and Lamar location. Near it was the short-lived **Cricket Club** that featured blues and country, located in apartments then known so melodiously as "English air" and the scene of at least one interview in **Jan Reid's** seminal *The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock*. Across the street on Tinnin Ford Road was the **South Door**, which catered to the student crowd with blues and rock.

Mother Earth thrived for a while before the **Back Room** took the space and owned the local hard rock and metal niche there much longer, but the rest of the scene died out in that locale after the Seventies, dominated by highly competitive Latino clubs and discos. Hip-hop fashion plate **Theophilus London** playing the first night of the 700-person Beauty Ballroom's grand opening next weekend is neither here nor there for me, but that the next night, Saturday, holds an **Elvis Presley/David Bowie** tribute night is poetically just because it gives the **Ambitious Orchestra** and members of the **Riverboat Gamblers**, **Not in the Face**, **Flesh Lights**, **Quiet Company**, **Asylum Street Spankers**, and more a chance to play at being the Thin White Duke or Fat Elvis.

Meanwhile, the benefits continue, worthy causes all. The sudden closing of **Momo's** last month put its employees in financial straits, and offering temporary relief at **Antone's** on Saturday are some of the club's stalwart players, including **Dan Dyer**, **Ed Jurdi** from **Band of Heathens**, **Drew Smith**, **Little Brave**, **King Corduroy**, **Marshall Hood & the Bads**, **Graham Wilkinson**, and others I'm betting aren't announced.

In the Name of the Dame II, the second of the fundraisers for **Traci Lamar Hancock**, happens Sunday, also at **Antone's**. This one ups the ante with a reunion of the **Lost Gonzo Band** and an appearance by the **Flatlanders** at the beginning of its 40th anniversary. **Marcia Ball**, **Monte Warden**, and the **Band of Heathens** are also onboard.

The fundraiser for **Chris Gray** sent his family home to Houston with a decent amount thanks to **James McMurtry**, the **Gourds**, the **Allen Oldies Band**, and **Residual Kid**, but it's a drop in the bucket against a tide of bills totaling well over \$100,000. Spending those hours inside the Continental on Sunday felt good. It was my neighborhood bar years ago.

"Never had a friend that was a building before," **ND at 501 Studios** honcho **Mike Henry** wrote years ago when his beloved **Electric Lounge** closed.

It's good to count the Continental Club among mine.

1, 2,
TRES,
CUATRO
BY MARGARET
MOSER

The Reluctant Celebrity

Christopher Cross

BY MARGARET MOSER

Christopher Cross did not want to participate in a photo session. He was wary of even interviewing with the *Chronicle*, writing in an email weeks before that the paper had a reputation for being “hard on mainstream bands.” He has a point.

In 1981, when his Christopher Cross band collected five Grammys for its eponymous debut, the group’s accomplishments met with ringing indifference here, where it began. After “Ride Like the Wind” charted at No. 2, the follow-up “Sailing” bested it in *Billboard*. Soon, the awards shelf included an Oscar, and still the Christopher Cross band got no respect, especially in Austin, where songwriting literacy and the elusive perception of authenticity rule.

By the mid Eighties, the group dissolved. Cross recorded more albums and maintained a busy life in and out of the spotlight. It’s the career musicians dream about, but few ever achieve. And after 30 years in Los Angeles, Christopher Cross moved back to Austin late last year.

If it’s cliché to say none of it came easy, it’s true nonetheless. Stardom thrust a sensitive soul with rock-solid credentials and a poet’s heart into the unforgiving glare of mass appeal. When Cross writes, “I am the reluctant celebrity,” he’s not being modest.

Cross Roads

Cross’ house in West Austin is not large or ostentatious. It’s neat in the typical prosperous neighborhood style and exudes a genteel attractiveness. The property includes a garage apartment where his son Rain lives. Cross’ desire to stay close to his children factored into his move here. He likewise keeps a New York City residence, where daughter Madison attends college. Another son, Justin, lives in Birmingham, Ala.

The khaki walls of the white-trimmed front room are lined with a dozen or so framed gold and platinum records, an impressive showing for a career bestowed with the most sought-after honors in the entertainment business: an Academy Award, Grammys, and a Golden Globe. Down the hall is his home studio, also spare and unassuming but tidy. The house suggests someone organized and in control of his low-key surroundings.

Cross’ reticence about photo sessions doesn’t apply to his general demeanor; he’s tall and imposingly built, neatly dressed and with a passion for fine Borsalino hats. He’s also the Exhibit A of artists who’d rather let their work speak for itself.

“The biggest gift of my career has been to work with and meet those artists I idolized growing up, whether it’s Randy Newman or the Beach Boys,” he says earnestly. “I realize, ‘Oh, I’m Christopher Cross, and I’m famous, too’ on some level because people know who I am, but then there’s Brian Wilson or Joni Mitchell or Randy Newman, and that’s a whole other thing.”

“They are larger than life. I have to pinch myself sometimes.”

Yet there’s Cross, in the same room with Brian Wilson, conversing as peers. Staying true to his pop affections, Cross famously became a target of derision, especially in the town he picked to live in after leaving San Antonio.

“We did feel slighted by Austin,” he admits, “but we never related to the songwriting or music being celebrated here and always looked to a more West Coast star. My attitude was to do the cover music. It paid the bills better. But keep your own music under your hat and shop it to the labels. That took us out of the mainstream. We weren’t playing at Mother Earth or the Armadillo or Antone’s.



Now and then: Christopher Cross today, and at right, his Alamo Heights High School yearbook photo, 1968

“In fact, I never went to Antone’s or the Armadillo. Guys like Jerry Jeff Walker and Rusty Weir – I went to see them play but didn’t know them. I used to go to see B.W. Stevenson at Castle Creek. The only one I really identify with is Willis Alan Ramsey.”

Sacrilege! Cross identifies Buddy Holly as a huge influence, likes “Muskrat Love,” and confesses he doesn’t know Townes Van Zandt’s music. Can you really be from Austin and not kiss the ring? Sure, if you’re Christopher Cross. Let’s go back to the tote board.

The Christopher Cross band collected five Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year for its December 1979 bow on Warner Bros.; got nine songs onto the Top 40 charts, starting with “Ride Like the Wind” in 1980; and charted four No. 1 hits including the ubiquitous “Sailing.” Cross also took home a Golden Globe and an Oscar for “Arthur’s Theme (The Best You Can Be),” co-written with Burt Bacharach. Cross has sold 9 million units worldwide over the course of eight albums, including his most recent, *Doctor Faith*.

In 1980, Christopher Cross leapfrogged from recording in the studio to opening for the Eagles. Meteoric climb, wild ride, rocket ship to the stars – all the rock star checkpoints.

“It took 10 years from Chris and me sitting in his parents’ bedroom in [San Antonio’s] Terrell Hills in 1970, pipe-dreaming about making an album, to the reality of the Grammys,” muses Cross’ longtime writing partner and friend Rob Meurer.

“Anyone who thinks all Chris can play is ‘Sailing’ doesn’t know he started out with a Flying V and a Marshall stack and hair out to here.”

Smoke on the Water

It was good to be young in San Antonio in the Sixties. The town basked in its position as the capital of South Texas rock (see “My Children Are Becoming Heavy,” Aug. 26, 2011). Doug Sahm rode the beautiful vibrations of “Mendocino” because he’d moved to Northern California, while his lieutenant Augie Meyers ruled San Antonio as Lord August & the Visions of Lite at the Pusi-Kat.

The Pusi-Kat was the hippest club in San Antonio in 1968, when the World’s Fair turned the eyes of the world on the Alamo City. When the fair closed the following year, an up-and-coming promoter named Joe A. Miller bought the club, booking it under the old name before revamping it as the JAM Factory.

The JAM Factory replaced the Pusi-Kat in the early Seventies as the venue of choice for the hip rock acts traveling through San Antonio, as well as local rock bands like Flash, which featured the young Christopher Geppert, born 1951. Flash was a high-octane quartet seasoned enough to rank among the city’s best rock bands. It didn’t hurt that the group’s guitarist also worked for Miller doing gofer work.

“Deep Purple booked their first show in the U.S. at the JAM Factory,” recalls Cross. “But Ritchie Blackmore had a reaction to the flu shot, and he got sick. The show was sold out, and Joe Miller suggested to Jon Lord he use me to sub, and Joe would issue refunds to anyone who wanted. Ian Gillan was not for it, but Jon Lord made the call, and they said okay.”

“Eric Johnson was opening, so I used his Marshall and amp. I played the Deep Purple tunes I knew and some blues and got through it. I drove them to the airport, and when they left, I met Ritchie. He gave me his pick and was very nice.”

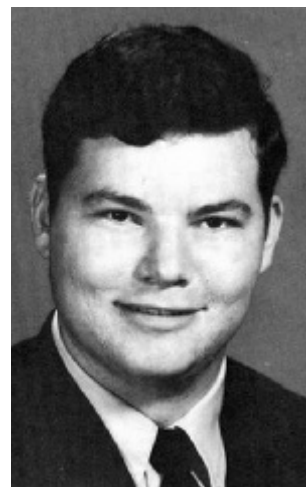
It’s got to be brutal being Christopher Cross.

“It was *such* a thrill. He was such a great guitarist to me.”

“Eagle Rock, who [publicized] my new *Doctor Faith* album, has Deep Purple, so I asked them to ask about it. Deep Purple has no recollection of it – said it never happened – but why would they remember? It was a drag for them, a blip on their career radar. To me, as a kid, it was huge, a big thing.”

Cross was already a big thing himself in San Antonio’s cross-culturally vibrant scene, having started out in a junior high band called the Psychos.

“My big moment was playing ‘Wipeout’ at the make-out parties,” he laughs. “The other guys didn’t want to sing, so I was the singing drummer, and



that’s where I started. That’s what got us as the Chosen Few into the Mule Stall [Alamo Heights High School’s teen club], too. For our audition, we wore blue button-down shirts, and I sang ‘And I Love Her.’

“It was an all-girl committee, and I still have the card somewhere that said, ‘Us few choose the Chosen Few.’ They said, ‘It’s so cute the way he sings that sweet song.’ It was unlikely for us to be picked to play because we were sophomores, but the girls wanted slower music. The other guys were like, ‘Way to go!’ And I was like: ‘I’m telling you, dude, chicks like those soft songs. They like you to be romantic.’”

By 1970, the JAM Factory was in full swing. Cross reveled in his position with Joe Miller, now paying off in opening

continued on p.42

The Austin Chronicle presents

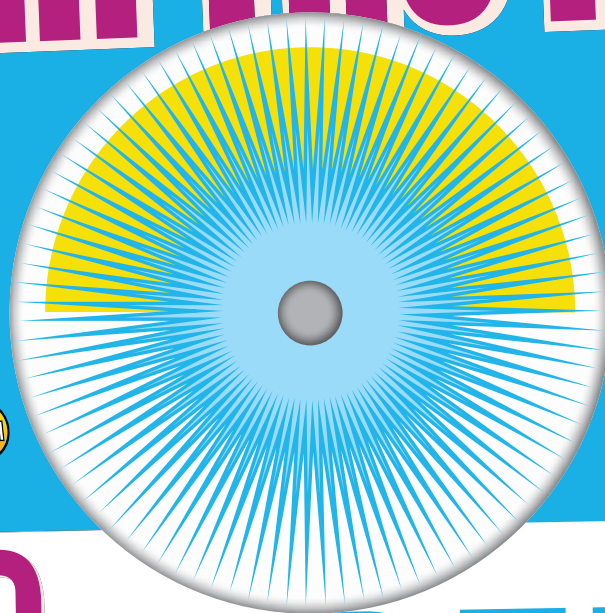
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San Antonio's Flash circa 1971; Christopher Cross wears the headband.



gigs for Led Zeppelin, rounding up equipment for a snowbound Three Dog Night, and being sole witness to Eric Clapton's warm-up before a Blind Faith performance.

"I picked up Fleetwood Mac and delivered them to the hotel," mentions Cross. "I was changing from drums to guitar, so it was cool to meet Peter Green, the old English guitar god. That night, the roof leaked and blew out John McVie's amp. They got him another bass amp.

"Years later, Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks heard the record and took me out with Fleetwood for their *Tusk* tour. I was in the bar one night and told John and Mick about how I'd picked them up in San Antonio. They didn't believe it! I told them I was serious. I'd driven them around. 'What a bunch of crap,' they said. They weren't buying it!

"Suddenly, I said to John, 'You blew out your amplifier and had to get another one.' You should have seen the look on his face.

"I remember that. I remember my amp blowing up in Texas," John McVie said. "But I don't remember you."

"But they started to believe me."

The Godfather of Chillwave

"Chris dreads Grammy time," confides Meurer. "His name will be dragged through the mud by writers saying he beat out

Pink Floyd's *The Wall* and Frank Sinatra. Without fail."

It's got to be brutal being Christopher Cross, the punch line to any joke about music that doesn't target Kenny G. Bloggers still cite his music for its lulling melodicism three decades after he ruled the charts. "Like Christopher Cross on muscle relaxers," snarked *The Village Voice*, describing the chillwave musical trend at South by Southwest 2010.

The Christopher Cross band that signed to Warner Bros. and moved to California on the wings of "Ride Like the Wind" consisted of Cross and Meurer with drummer Tommy Taylor and Flash bassist Andy Salmon. Austin engineer Chet Himes perfected a sound Cross and Meurer had in their heads: sweeping, orchestral pop-rock inspired by the sounds of their Southern California and songwriting heroes. Meurer has been playing in San Antonio bands since he was 14.

"Austin didn't believe that's what we sounded like," he asserts. "People thought we went to L.A. sprinkled in fairy dust and got this record deal. It didn't have any grease, but it's exactly what we did. But we didn't get L.A.-ized. We did this here in Texas.

"I don't think Austin wanted to produce this music. It flew in the face of the tradition of down-and-earth blues bands, roots and cos-

His music reflects the "beautiful music" radio format popular in the Sixties on the then-little-used FM band. It emphasized orchestral arrangements, instrumentals, and soft vocals like the Percy Faith Singers.

"Beautiful music" gave way to adult contemporary, the format practically invented to accommodate the popularity of Christopher Cross in the Eighties.

mic cowboy stuff. The illuminati didn't have the time of day for us, and the critics were hard. We didn't understand it. We were proud! These were good songs! We were listening to pop writers, and our music reflected it. We weren't hanging out where they played the Sex Pistols. For us, it was about the song."

It was also about the band. Christopher Cross was a group as well as an individual, and by the second album, its success opened doors of unimaginable opportunity. Cross was given the chance to write with Burt Bacharach, and the two composed the theme for the hugely popular 1981 film *Arthur*, starring Dudley Moore. "Arthur's Theme (The Best You Can Be)" took home an Oscar for Best Song. That upped the ante; Meurer recalled tours where Cross would be constantly swept off to do publicity while "Tommy and Andy and I just had a great time on the road."

Writing "Arthur's Theme" with Bacharach (the song also credits Carol Bayer Sager and Peter Allen) also became a sore point with the band, even though it gave Cross the chance to write the 1984 Olympic theme for swimming, "A Chance for Heaven," with Bacharach and Sager. Cross never considered himself a collaborative writer; composing with Meurer was simply something he'd done much of his life.

"But how do you say, 'I don't want to write with Burt Bacharach?'" exclaims Cross today.

Meurer points out the other problem: "Suddenly, it wasn't *our* band – pop tunes with a rock tinge. The success of 'Arthur' was mega, and it put off the second album."

It took another two years before the release of the band's sophomore follow-up, 1983's *Another Page*, which although a certified gold record (sales of 500,000) couldn't touch the multiplatinum zeitgeist of

Christopher Cross despite a Top 10 hit with a song made famous by soap opera *General Hospital*, "Think of Laura." By the third album, 1985's more rocking *Every Turn of the World*, there wasn't much for Meurer, Salmon, and Taylor to do. Christopher Cross ceased being a band and wholly became the man.

Cross took the opportunity to explore music solely on his own, drawing from the vibrant panoply of music in his hometown of San Antonio. In a way, his music reflects the "beautiful music" radio format popular in the Sixties on the then-little-used FM band. It emphasized orchestral arrangements, instrumentals, and soft vocals like the Percy Faith Singers. "Beautiful music"



Back to school Alamo City bill, 1969, starring Flash and regional cult band Homer

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Alvin Fielder ★ Damon Smith ★ Dave Dove ★ Jason Jackson ★ Christina Carter

Thu 1/26 Rebecca Loebe ★ Greg Trooper ★ Jesse Aycock

gave way to middle of the road, aka MOR, and then came adult contemporary, the format practically invented to accommodate the popularity of Christopher Cross in the Eighties.

"One band I saw a lot was Sunny Ozuna [Sunny & the Sunliners]," remembers Cross, name-checking the popular S.A. singer favored by Doug Sahm. "He was like San Antonio's James Brown, with this big band, tight brass, and percussion. It was amazing. Dynamic performers, great band, great players. 'Put Me in Jail.' 'Talk to Me.' They were the first band I remember that really stepped their game up. I think I got the 1960s Latin feel ingrained in my music from that."

The time on his own gave Cross an appreciation for the past, too, and in 1988, he and his boyhood bandmate began writing together again. The two have been co-credited ever since.

"We're getting pretty good at this," Meurer allows. "We still feel like the arc is up. We care about the craft of songwriting. On *Doctor Faith*, he wrote the music and I wrote the words. We get jazzed just like we did in 1970."

"I have no desire to write with anyone except Rob," says Cross candidly. "The only other person I've really written with was Burt Bacharach. I'd rather be a guy like Tom Waits. He's always danced to his own beat."

When Life Hands You Lemon

"Like Christopher Cross?" the Facebook ad for Windsor Drive inquires coyly.

After finishing a summer on the Van's Warped Tour, the Wisconsin-based quartet recorded and shot a video for Christopher Cross' "Sailing," posting it online last month. Windsor Drive flaunts its contemporary sound, soft rock for the tattoo set, and wears its Christopher Cross influences proudly.

Then there was a *30 Rock* episode the previous fall in which Tina Fey's character Liz Lemon muses about an ex-boyfriend and the hope that "the whole thing would turn out like a movie where Christopher Cross sings a song like, 'All my days I've been waiting for you to come back home in the moonlight of New York City.'"

Cross caught the episode and called Meurer, suggesting they actually write the song. "Lemon's Theme" became a golden opportunity to tweak his own saccharine reputation. The tart melody is carried throughout Meurer's lyrics, with Cross crooning for Miss Lemon to "pucker up and give the world a kiss," that "love is a bitter game," and to "taste the world's delights" because "a sweet life waits for you."

It was pretty, as Cross' music has always been. It was clever. It was released on the *30 Rock* soundtrack and became the unexpected

focus of the ad publicity campaign. That same year in the book *Starting Over: The Making of John Lennon and Yoko Ono's Double Fantasy*, engineer Lee DeCarlo recalled John Lennon, saying he was inspired by Cross' hit "Sailing."

By the time his eighth LP, *Doctor Faith*, was released last year, Cross made the move from California back to Austin. He's content to be back among old friends like Eric Johnson and Van Wilks and sending MP3s to Meurer. He was enthusiastically received at the Erwin Center's wildfire benefit in September, completed a European tour in November, and has tours scheduled throughout this year. So far, he's been welcomed warmly, a genial presence showing up at the Saxon Pub, Threadgill's, and fine Italian restaurants.

Maybe Cross finally got the last laugh, reluctantly. ■

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White Ghost Shivers

Nobody Loves You Like We Do

Be forewarned those of respectably sensible and genteel character: Austin's White Ghost Shivers are not to be trusted. The local septet may seem unassuming, but as always they prove to be such duplicitous masters of the double entendre that little can avoid the taint of perceived lewd innuendo. The Shivers' third LP mesmerizes with a rollicking, throwback vaudevillian routine, and yet the band manages to slip in perversions that can only be deemed corrupting by a civilized mind. Among the 13 tunes are hot jazz numbers about such licentious subjects as short-haired girls, eerily macabre and absurdist murders at the circus, and shimmying soundtracks for the devil. While such songs must be obviously shunned, the band may be lauded for its delightfully lighter side, which includes the Caribbean rhythms of "Sweet Banana" celebrating the delectable joys of elongated fruit and fuzzy coconuts and the cautionary tale of closer "We Never Mention Aunt Clara," exiled despite her dedicated performance upon the preacher's organ. So although certain tracks must be censored for their utterly modern morals, the Shivers may yet be saved and properly bowdlerized so that society at large can otherwise enjoy the dexterous fingering of their instruments.

★★★★

— Doug Freeman



TEXAS PLATTERS

★★★★★ PERFECT ★★★★ GREAT ★★★ GOOD ★★ MEDIOCRE ★ COASTER



SHELLEY HIAN

Unlucky only in that East Sixth Street's intimate new dive accommodates less than 175 revelers, White Denim's Friday the 13th sellout at Hotel Vegas might have proved the local show of 2012 already. If the exhilarating local quartet had played a seven-night stand there, two sets without an opener as was the case here, every performance would've no doubt qualified. Such is the thrill of any set-list-free White Denim squall. Singer James Petralli's hollow-body Gibson guitar emits airy, jazz-courting tones that meet his high, soft tenor in a musical ozone that can only be called Grateful Dead-like. Second guitarist Austin Jenkins, bass current Steve Terebecki, and Levon Helm-like backbone Josh Block groove a fierce sonic juggernaut that proves somehow less steam engine (heavy) inevitable than a grin-inducing pillow to the kisser. With Philly soul, a Strokes or two, and seamless shifts of tempo and melody reminiscent of the Band, White Denim makes every jam sound 10 minutes too short. As an initial trio, the group's interlocking live engagement began at explosive. In a foursome, White Denim builds to that same point, and once achieved, breaks on through to another side of the alchemical stratosphere. Toward the finish of the first 45-minute set, "Street Joy," standout from universal 2011 Top 10 LP *D*, downshifted with all the muffler turbulence of a high-performance roadster. The second set escalated *D* to the point where the evening's DJ pulled out a copy of the MC5's *Kick Out the Jams* 10 minutes into the hour-long second half and then never took his eyes off the band. *Fits* inducer "I Start To Run" and "Drug" unleashed furious R&B beatdowns not witnessed since the Who at the Isle of Wight, drummer Block rolling Keith Moon on his small kit. White Denim, now opening for Wilco.

— Raoul Hernandez

Sheet Music

I'll Be Here in the Morning: The Songwriting Legacy of Townes Van Zandt

by Brian T. Atkinson
Texas A&M University Press, 250 pp, \$24.95

As legend has it, Townes Van Zandt once opined, "There's only two kinds of music: the blues and zippy doo-dah." Austin's Brian T. Atkinson has his heart in the right place, but *I'll Be Here in the Morning* overflows with the latter. He seeks to explain the mystique behind Van Zandt's songwriting genius by talking with admirers including Jerry Jeff Walker, Guy Clark,



Butch Hancock, Lucinda Williams, Todd Snider, and Jay Farrar, but since each is given a chapter, the proceedings become more about them than the subject, although by the book's end we're convinced Van Zandt was a "poet." There are a few good stories told; Rodney Crowell and the Cowboy Junkies' Michael Timmins offer interesting insights into the mysteries surrounding a man they revered and got to know. Still, the

seemingly drunken rant from the Gourds' Kevin Russell and the author's comparison to Ted Hawkins comes across as misinformed. While Steve Earle missing among the chattering is unfortunate, does anyone really care what Jewel, Grace Potter, and the Counting Crows' Adam Duritz have to say about TVZ?

— Jim Caligiuri

The Little Willies

For the Good Times (Milking Bull/EMI)

What began as a one-off excuse for Norah Jones and four of her friends to play some country music at a dive on New York City's Lower East Side now has a second act. *For the Good Times* follows the same template forged with a self-titled effort from 2006: heavy with tunes from country legends, like the Kris Kristofferson penned title track, Dolly Parton's "Jolene," and "Lovesick Blues," made famous by Hank Williams. When Jones acts as the primary vocalist on the appropriately feisty "Fist City" and the title track, the songs possess the same ebullience as her finely tuned solo work. Problems arise with second vocalist Richard Julian, whose mild tenor is the musical equivalent of beige. His reading of Willie Nelson's "Permanently Lonely" dances with the local country icon's trademark delivery while maintaining none of its soul. That ultimately relegates the Little Willies to making "cocktail country" for those who don't care for the real thing.

★★

— Jim Caligiuri



The Preservation Two Sisters

Despite playing dusty bluegrass suited for *Deadwood*, the Weary Boys were still somehow ahead of their time. The local ramblers called it quits years before Mumford & Sons and the Avett Brothers brought a modern railroad revival to the masses. After two solo albums, the Preservation's *Two Sisters* marks the welcome return of Boys' leader Mario Matteoli, though



there's little evidence of his former musical self here. Recorded at Spoon drummer Jim Eno's Public Hi-Fi studio, the local quintet's debut offers breezy indie folk with light Sixties psych-pop overtones and the homemade ingenuity of early Dr. Dog. Matteoli's yearning "Just Wanna Be Loved" and "West Texas Never Ends" are obvious highlights, but he's helped along by his wife, Cayce ("Fantasmagoria," "Blackbird No. 3"), and Baltimore transplant Andrew Bianculli, whose piano pop on "Backstreets" and "Happiness" bounds with summery nostalgia. That pinwheel rotation lends *Two Sisters* a refreshing balance that warrants a closer look.

★★★

— Austin Powell

The Pons

The Blackest Shine

The Pons' sophomore LP strikes as a gallant effort to try to hold things together, channeling self-destructive impulses into something creative and constructive. The black-eyed portraits quilting the back cover signal as much, a collage evoking both amusement and horror in its causal ambiguity. Yet the local trio can't quite pull off those competing impulses over the entirety of *The Blackest Shine*, even as the often dire sentiments are couched in polished, upbeat pop. The ominous swirl and driving percussion of the title track races against desperation, while "Someone Else's Voice" pumps hard-clipped rhythms against Thomas Mazzi's embittered internal dialogue. At its best, as with the first half of "Can't Get Through," the Pons present a perfect pop build that might recall Freedy Johnston, but often the tunes are too wound in complex patterns and turns to allow them to take hold, even in calmer moments such as "Sleep Soundly" or elongated closer "Black Twin."

★★

— Doug Freeman



NEW OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepherd



ROY TOMPKINS

John Whittle, 52, was charged in December 2011 with robbing a Wells Fargo Bank in Port Richey, Fla. According to police, Whittle ordered a beer at the Hayloft Bar shortly after 1pm then excused himself, and a few minutes later returned to finish his beer. In the interim, police said later, Whittle had walked down the street to the bank and robbed it.

LEAD STORY

Obsessions: 1) Don Aslett, 76, recently opened the Museum of Clean in Pocatello, Idaho, as the culmination of a lifelong devotion to tidying up. Highlights include several hundred pre-electricity vacuum cleaners plus interactive exhibits to encourage kids to clean their rooms. Aslett told London's *Daily Mail* in December 2011 that people who don't understand his dedication must never have experienced the satisfaction of making a toilet bowl sparkle. 2) Starting early in life, Dustin Kruse, 4, is so knowledgeable about toilet models and plumbing mechanics that the Kohler Co. presented him with an advanced-model dual-flush commode for Christmas. Dustin, a fan of the Kohler showroom, has been known to explain toilet technology to other showroom visitors.

GOVERNMENT IN ACTION!

Predator drones are an important weapon against terrorists in Afghanistan, Yemen, and other countries, but in June 2011, an unarmed predator was employed stateside to help catch cattle rustlers. The Department of Homeland Security owns eight predators for surveillance and occasionally assists local law enforcement. The cattle rustlers had been arrested, then jumped bail and holed up on their vast ranch near Lakota, N.D., but the predator spotted their exact location on the property, leading to a raid that ended without bloodshed.

Government Inaction: India's legendary plodding bureaucracy had long stymied a snake charmer named Hakkul, a villager in the

Uttar Pradesh state, who had sought a snake-conservation permit which had been authorized at one level but delayed locally. In November 2011, finally exasperated, Hakkul walked into the land revenue office in the town of Harraiya with several sacks of snakes (including cobras) and turned them loose, sending clerks and visitors climbing furniture or fleeing. Recent news accounts report that almost all of the snakes had been rounded up.

A December 2011 news release from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned of the dangers of *Campylobacter jejuni* bacteria infections on a sheep ranch, but apparently only among workers who used 19th century method of castrating the animals. CDC strongly urged that workers stop biting off the sheep's genitals and instead use modern tools.

From U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn's periodic list of the most "unnecessary, duplicative and low-priority projects" that the federal government currently funds, announced in December 2011: \$75,000 to promote awareness of the role Michigan plays in producing Christmas trees and poinsettias, \$48,700 for promoting the Hawaii Chocolate Festival, \$113,227 for a video-game preservation center in New York, and \$764,825 to study something surely already done adequately by Silicon Valley entrepreneurs: how college students use mobile devices for social networking. Also on Sen. Coburn's list: \$15.3 million in continuing expenses for the famous Alaskan "bridge to nowhere" that was widely ridiculed in 2005 but apparently refuses to die.

CHUTZPAH!

Convicted serial rapist Steven Phillips was exonerated in 2008, one of a continuing string of wrongly convicted Dallas-area criminals proved innocent by DNA testing. Under a formula, by state law he was awarded about \$4 million tax-free for his 25 years behind bars. Recently, Phillips' ex-wife filed a petition in court demanding a portion, even though the couple had been divorced for the last 17 years of his incarceration and the ex-wife had remarried and had a child. The ex-wife claims it was Phillips who initiated the divorce and that she had given up on him only because he had revealed a "disgusting" history as a "peeping tom" and flasher.

FELICITOUS DISCOVERIES

1) Dan D'Amato, 45, partying in an Orlando, Fla., motel room in December 2011, was accidentally shot by a stranger who was having a dispute with another partygoer. Later, as his wounded hip was being treated at a hospital, doctors discovered and removed two "huge" tumors in D'Amato's abdomen that had gone unnoticed. The tumors were not cancerous but had they not been found, they would soon have disabled him. 2) At a home in Taylorsville, Utah, in December 2011, one housemate who was pursuing a mouse in the kitchen accidentally shot another housemate. As police investigated, they discovered a 13-year-old girl hiding in a closet. A third housemate, Paul Kunzler, 28, was then arrested and charged with carrying on a months-long sexual relationship with her.

POLICE REPORT

In December 2011, Russell Mace, 55, was caught soon after robbing a Union Savings Bank branch in New Milford, Conn. A bank employee had spotted Mace acting suspicious in the parking lot, and indeed, he said, Mace entered, robbed the bank of about \$3,000, and fled to a waiting car. Police, however, identified the car, which they had noted from Mace's recent arrest for shoplifting. (The "suspicious" behavior the bank employee had noticed, he told police, was Mace, pants down, defecating, in plain view among parked cars.)

CLICHÉS COME TO LIFE

1) A 28-year-old man in New York City quietly excused himself the morning after his wedding in November 2011 following an elaborate reception at a hotel, took a taxi to a Harlem River overlook, and jumped to his death. According to a relative, the man's suicide note mentioned that he "couldn't take it anymore." 2) Luna Oraivej, 37, was ordered in 2010 by a court in Seattle to take an anger management course to settle a charge of domestic violence, but in December 2011, she sued the creator of the course because a fellow attendee had stabbed her in the arm during a classroom dispute. The instructor was playing a video of *Dr. Phil*, and Oraivej had urged the classmate to listen to Dr. Phil's message, but the classmate apparently could not bear it.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at
www.newssoftheweird.blogspot.com
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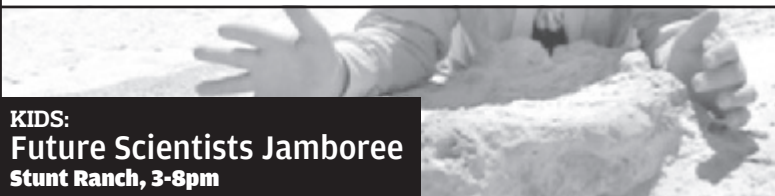
THEATRE:
Long Gone Lonesome
Bass Concert Hall, 8pm



COMMUNITY:
Clockwork Con
Crowne Plaza




SPORTS:
Gorilla Run
First Street Bridge, 9am




KIDS:
Future Scientists Jamboree
Stunt Ranch, 3-8pm



FILM:
Rear Window
Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm



FILM:
Where Soldiers Come From
Violet Crown, 7:30pm



MUSIC:
The Kills
Stubb's, 7pm



MUSIC:
Chablis
Sahara Lounge

THURSDAY
19

COMMUNITY: Pinup Class Beauty Bar, 3-9pm
CIVICS 101: SXSW Sound Permit Q&A Historic ACL Studio, 5pm
FILM: American Splendor Fricano's Deli, West Campus, 7pm
FILM: Vertigo Alamo Village, 7pm

FRIDAY
20

FILM: Sprouts Film Night AGE Building, 6:30pm
CLASSICAL MUSIC: Joby Talbot's Path of Miracles Martin's Lutheran Church, 8pm
MUSIC: Charlie Hunter/Jimbo Mathus Continental Club
MUSIC: Erin Ivey Cactus Cafe
FILM: Deep Red Alamo Village, 11:30pm

SATURDAY
21

COMMUNITY: Lunar New Year Celebration Asian American Cultural Center, 10am-3pm
MUSIC: Ladysmith Black Mambazo Moody Theater, 6:30pm
FILM: Goldfinger Blue Starlite Drive-In II, 7pm
MUSIC: Carper Family Cactus Cafe
FILM: Alien Alamo Ritz, 11:30pm

SUNDAY
22

SPORTS: JCC Dodgeball Tourney Jewish Community Center, 11am
FILM: On the Edge: Improvisation in Music Skinny's Ballroom, 5pm
MUSIC: In the Name of the Dame Too Antone's, 6pm
MUSIC: Dan Hicks & the Hot Licks One World Theatre
FILM: Dreadnaught Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm

MONDAY
23

FILM: ACL Reel Rarities: Leonard Cohen Alamo Ritz, 7pm
MUSIC: Asleep at the Wheel Rattle Inn, 8pm

TUESDAY
24

MEAL TIMES: Tequila Bash Jack Allen's Kitchen, 6pm
LITERA: Ben Marcus BookPeople, 7pm
MUSIC: Not in the Face Palm Door, 7pm
FILM: Bananas/Love and Death Paramount, 7pm
FILM: Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm

WEDNESDAY
25

GAY PLACE: Liza With a Z Alamo Ritz, 7pm
VISUAL ARTS: Migration Patterns During Wartime Pump Project, 7pm
MUSIC: Graveyard Mohawk, 7:30pm

THURSDAY
26

COMMUNITY: The Blind Cafe University Avenue Church of Christ, 7pm
FILM: Office Space/Beverly Hills Cop Paramount, 7pm
COMEDY: Zach Attack! Alamo South Lamar, 7:30pm
MUSIC: Whiskey Shivers Hole in the Wall
FILM: The Weather Underground Salvage Vanguard Theater, 8pm

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FronteraFest 2012

Here's the 19th annual spectacle of performance, featuring a pack of new shows of 25 minutes each, Tuesday through Saturday nights, for five weeks, created by some of your cleverest friends and neighbors. And that's just the **Short Fringe** at Hyde Park Theatre. There's also the **Long Fringe** starting on Jan. 24, with its full-length concoctions of performative power and narrative goodness.

Check the HPT website for a more comprehensive schedule, tickets, fest passes, and any last-minute switcheroos, but see below for the Long Fringe basics. www.hydeparktheatre.com.



LONG FRINGE at Salvage Vanguard Theater:

Akimbo Bubble Scuttle Ruckus Sketch comedy by Topping Haggerty and the Da Foundry crew. *Sun.*, Jan. 29, 6:45pm; *Tue.*, Jan. 31, 7pm; *Sat.*, Feb. 4, 1pm; *Sun.*, Feb. 5, 3pm.

The Alien Baby Play is written by Nicholas Walker Herbert and directed by Gary Jaffe for Tutto Theatre. *Tue.*, Jan. 24, 7pm; *Sat.*, Jan. 28, 1pm; *Sun.*, Jan. 29, 8:45pm; *Sun.*, Feb. 5, 7:15pm.

The Billy Ocean/Teena Marie Confluence of 1985 is brought to you by Max Langert and Punchkin Repertory. *Wed.*, Jan. 25, 7pm; *Sat.*, Jan. 28, 3:15pm; *Fri.*, Feb. 3, 7pm; *Sat.*, Feb. 4, 10pm.

The Crapstall Street Boys is the newest show, a tale of hungry urban monstrosities, from Connor Hopkins and Trouble Puppet Theater Company. Recommended! *Tue.*, Jan. 24, 9:15pm; *Sat.*, Jan. 28, 11pm; *Sun.*, Jan. 29, 3:15pm; *Sat.*, Feb. 4, 6:45pm.

Don't Go in the House The Dirigo Group presents a quartet of short plays written by Lowell Bartholomee and Dan Dietz. Recommended! *Fri.*, Jan. 27, 7pm; *Sun.*, Jan. 29, 4:45pm; *Mon.*, Jan. 30, 7:30pm; *Thu.*, Feb. 2, 8:30pm.

Holier Than Thou Bastion Carboni and Poison Apple Initiative offer a comedy about people competing to possess the powers of Jesus for a week. *Thu.*, Jan. 26, 9pm; *Sat.*, Jan. 28, 5:30pm; *Tue.*, Jan. 31, 9pm; *Sat.*, Feb. 4, 8:15pm.

Jack & Coconuts by Corey Kwoka 3-D Productions, where a wedding in paradise disintegrates into madness. *Fri.*, Jan. 27, 9pm; *Sun.*, Jan. 29, 1pm; *Wed.*, Feb. 1, 9pm; *Sun.*, Feb. 5, 5pm.

Somewhere in Utopia by Jared J. Stein and Out of Context Productions. *Wed.*, Jan. 25, 9:15pm; *Sat.*, Jan. 28, 7:15pm; *Fri.*, Feb. 3, 9:15pm; *Sat.*, Feb. 4, 3pm.

Southern Fried Chickie is Christy McBrayer's one-woman show about a struggling actress returning from Hollywood to her hometown of Tupelo. *Thu.*, Jan. 26, 7pm; *Sat.*, Jan. 28, 9pm; *Wed.*, Feb. 1, 7pm; *Sat.*, Feb. 4, 4:45pm.

LONG FRINGE at Blue Theatre:

Drawing A Paycheck Annie La Ganga draws portraits of the audience while telling tales of arts and crafts and her entrepreneurial misadventures. Recommended! *Thu.*, Jan. 26, 7pm; *Sat.*, Jan. 28, 5pm; *Mon.*, Jan. 30, 7:30pm; *Thu.*, Feb. 2, 8:45pm.

Foursquare by Manuel Zarate explores love via the three strangers in Austin and one night that will change their lives forever. *Fri.*, Jan. 27, 7pm; *Sun.*, Jan. 29, 4:15pm; *Wed.*, Feb. 1, 7pm; *Sat.*, Feb. 4, 9:15pm.

Getting Betta is Don Fried and the Paradox Players' sweet and futuristic comedy. *Tue.*, Jan. 24, 7pm; *Tue.*, Jan. 31, 9:15pm; *Thu.*, Feb. 2, 7pm; *Sun.*, Feb. 5, 1:15pm.

The Heart You Were Born With is Drew Julian's new play of romantic entanglements. *Tue.*, Jan. 24, 8:45pm; *Sat.*, Jan. 28, 7pm; *Sat.*, Feb. 4, 2:30pm; *Sun.*, Feb. 5, 8:30pm.

Here's to You A. John Boulanger and Imagine That Productions bring you a comedy of newlyweds and psychic hokum. *Sat.*, Jan. 28, 9:15pm; *Wed.*, Feb. 1, 9:15pm; *Sat.*, Feb. 4, 7:15pm; *Sun.*, Feb. 5, 4:15pm.

Internet Casanova: The Reboot by Bill Bauer and Weird City Theatre. *Wed.*, Jan. 25, 9:15pm; *Sat.*, Jan. 28, 3pm; *Fri.*, Feb. 3, 9:15pm; *Sun.*, Feb. 5, 6:30pm.

Life and Other Terminal Maladies by Trey Deason and Purple Crayon Theatre. *Thu.*, Jan. 26, 9:15pm; *Sun.*, Jan. 29, 6:30pm; *Tue.*, Jan. 31, 7pm; *Sun.*, Feb. 5, 2pm.

Precious Little Talent by Ella Hickson and Capital T Theatre is the U.S. premiere of the latest stage hit from London. *Wed.*, Jan. 25, 7pm; *Fri.*, Jan. 27, 9:15pm; *Sun.*, Jan. 29, 2pm; *Fri.*, Feb. 3, 7pm.

Salvage Vanguard Theater,
2803 Manor Rd.
Blue Theatre, 916 Springdale

THEATRE

OPENING

LONG GONE LONESOME The National Theatre of Scotland brings us this music-filled exploration of the secret country-and-blues life of Thomas Fraser. See "Long Gone Lonesome," p.23, for more. *Jan. 19-21. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm. Bass Concert Hall, 23rd Street & Robert Dedman Drive, UT campus, 471-1444. \$10-32. www.nationaltheatrescotland.com.*

WEIRD! TRUE HOLLYWOOD TALES: THUG HEAVEN, VOL. 1 Here's a monthly biography series brought to you by **Lashonda Lester**. This premiere episode takes a look at gangsta rap pioneer Eazy E and explores the mystery of who killed Tupac Shakur and the Notorious B.I.G. *Sun.*, Jan. 22, 7:30pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.weirdtruetales.com.*

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NEXT TO NORMAL Zach Scott Theatre presents the Texas premiere of this 2010 Pulitzer- and Tony-winning rock musical about a family coping with their matriarch's worsening bipolar disorder, with a fine cast (Meredith McCall and Jamie Goodwin leading? Perfect.) directed by Dave Steakley. *Jan. 25-March 4. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre's Kleberg Stage, 1421 W. Riverside, 476-0594. \$35-55.*

WICKED Yes, it's the Grammy- and Tony-winning phenomenon based on Gregory Maguire's 1995 novel about the early lives of those two Wizard of Oz witches, now professionally touring back to the Bass Concert Hall to thrill you as it's been thrilling audiences around the world. Baums away! *Jan. 25-Feb. 12. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 1 & 7pm. Bass Concert Hall, 23rd Street & Robert Dedman Drive, UT campus, 477-6060. \$38.50 and up. www.utpac.org.*

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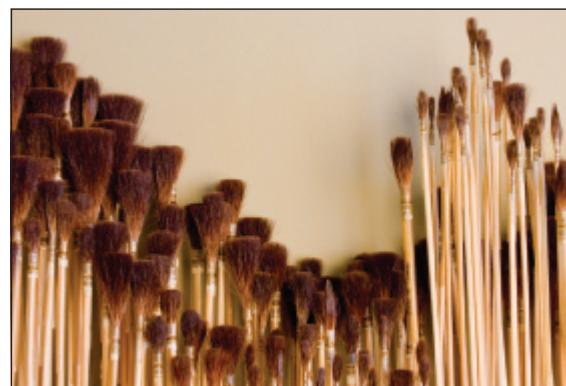
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ONGOING

CHANTEUSE Louise Richardson’s original musical about friendship, fame, and folk music follows the lives of two young women in Greenwich Village and features song styles ranging from traditional to Broadway to French cabaret. *Through Jan. 28. Sat., 2pm; Sun., 7:30pm. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 907-1821. \$15. www.chanteusemusical.com.*

THE CHILDREN’S HOUR Karen Jambon directs Lillian Hellman’s dark classic from 1934 for Different Stages. *Through Jan. 28. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 926-6747. \$15-30. www.main.org/diffstages.*

CONVERSATIONS WHILE DINING ALONE Here’s a new play, written and directed by Ken Johnson, that features 22 monologues performed by 12 actors. See review, p.26, for more. *Jan. 20-29: Fri. & Sun., 7:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 447-4338. \$12.50 (student discounts available). www.austintexas.gov.*

VIPER VIXENS OF 2012 “The evil Viper Vixens are destined to take over the world unless the heroes of the Mexican Air Force can defeat them!” The **Electronic Planet Ensemble** returns to the Vortex with a new multimedia explosion of scintillating sound and sci-fi spoofery, featuring a Chad Salvata narrative enhanced with cinematography from Sergio R. Samayoa and a mind-warping live band fronted by David Jewell. *Through Jan. 29. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30 (Thu. & Sun., two-for-one with food donation). www.vortexrep.org.*

AUDITIONS

SHAKESPEARE ON THE FARM: THE TAMING OF THE SHREW Present Company will stage this classic out at Rain Lily Farm in April and May. Prepare a two-minute comedic Shakespearean monologue. Send a head shot and résumé with preferred audition time to the email address below (write “Shrew casting” in the subject line). *Mon., Jan. 23, 7-10pm. 3710 Cedar. presentcompanyaustin@gmail.com.*

INHERIT THE WIND City Theatre is seeking actors for this classic drama of evolution against creationism in the famous “Scopes monkey trial.” Call or email for appointment. *Jan. 23-24. Mon., 5-8pm; Tue., 6-9pm. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. info@citytheatreaustin.org.*

THEATRE CALL BOARD

PRESENT COMPANY SEEKS NEW WORKS The theatre collective responsible for Shakespeare on the Farm is looking for one-act and full-length plays of all styles and genres for workshops and production. Please include a cover letter with contact information and submit via email with “New Works” as the subject line. www.presentcompanytheatre.com.

COMEDY

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Dana Gould He was the co-creator of MTV’s *Super Adventure Team* and wrote for *The Simpsons* for seven years? Pffft. We hear he’s even better live and onstage. And **Nick Mullen** opens. *Jan. 26-28. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-13.*

Punch! Where do you find the funniest stand-up comics in Austin? You find them here, in this weekly showcase hosted by **Matt Bearden**. Yeah, on a *Tuesday* night. You’re no idiot; you’re calling for reservations *now*, right? *Tuesdays, 8pm. \$5.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 814-TOWN. www.coldtownetheater.com.

This Week in Coldness: Thursday Night Social Club The party’s host Mac Blake takes you back to the halcyon days of the 1970s with improv troupes Scout and the Team. *Thu., 8:30pm. Yes, you’ll enjoy the sketch shenanigans of Breaking News Thu., 10pm. The Cage Match* Raw is war, even when it’s improvised. *Fri., 8:30pm. ColdTowne Stand-up Fri., 10pm. Cody (Dearing) and a Friend Sat., 8:30pm. Stone Cold Improv* brings *Midnight Society* and the *Frank Mills. Sat., 10pm. ColdTowne Gong Show Sat., 11pm.* And now there’s **Pay-what-you-wish** Improv Shows on *Wednesdays! 8:30 & 10pm.*

ESTHER’S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.esthersfollies.com.

Esther’s Follies The most popular sketch troupe in town brings comedy that skewers the high-and-mighty and riotous song parodies, right there on Sixth Street. Esther’s Election Year Medley

tracks the candidates in “GOP Superstar!” and lambasts the Prez and the tea party alike with the “Baraky Horror Picture Show” And there are **Ray Anderson’s** nonpartisan spectacles of magic, too! Reservations recommended. *Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$22-27 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, military).*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.

It’s Hideoutrageous! Here’s your one-stop emporium of laughter Downtown. The **Threefer** brings you three troupes in one night. *Thu., 8pm. \$5. The Free Fringe* features the lovely duo of **Firth & Arjet** and a never-ending parade of improv experiments. This week: *It’s the wedding show! Thu., 10pm. Free. Narrative Improv Jam* Who’s gonna guide them and you through a story, scene by scene, this week? *Fri., 8pm. \$12. The Spectacle* features Parallelogramophonograph and the feminine mystiques of **Girls Girls Girls. Fri., 10pm. \$12. Sci-Fi Double Feature** features a *Twilight* Zone-inspired show and – YES! – the return of **Start Trekkin’**. *Sat., 8pm. \$12. Maestro* It’s improviser against improviser, a whole stageful of them, battling for victory. *Sat., 10pm. \$12. The Weekender* Student Showcase and **Sarah 7. Sun., 8pm. \$5.**

INSTITUTION THEATER 3708 Woodbury, 895-9580. www.theinstitutiontheater.com.

Wheelhouse of Spectacular Wow Times Cool – the level of talent matches the bombast of the title! This weekly variety show features Jay Byrd, Patrick Knisley, Ammon Taylor, Tyler and Taylor, Ceej, Bryan ‘Lubu’ Roberts, and Brett Tribe as guests this week. Make your reservations early. *Fridays, 8pm. \$5.*

NEW MOVEMENT THEATER 1819 Rosewood. **The New Movement** Here’s the comedy-focused powerhouse that ate East Austin, generating new troupes like, what, every other week? Shows, workshops, classes, all of it. See the website for details, yes, but look: **Joy Behar’s Book Club** is a showcase of female comedians. *Thu., 8pm. Free. Block Party* Anything – that’s anything – goes. *Thu., 9:30pm. Free. Handbomb* brings the improv, accompanied by **Sidecar. Fri., 9pm. Lucy with Opposites. Fri., 10:30pm. Duocity** Two-person improv teams! *Sat., 9pm. TNM 10* features the all-time best sketches from this comedy factory.

Sat., 10:30pm. \$5. Altercation Comedy Tour Say what? Yes, it’s *that* stand-up tour, and this time **JT Habsersaat’s** joined by **Billy Milano, Mike Weibe, Mack Lindsay, Blake Midgette**, and more. *Sat., 11:30pm. \$10.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelveetaroom.com.

John Tole One of the finalists from the Funniest Comic contest up in Dallas and a road warrior with the Killers of Comedy tour? Yes, that’s this guy with the Kiss Army tattoo among the other ink. **Katie Pengra** and friends open. *Sat., Jan. 21, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

Friday Night Fracas: It’s Always Funny with Brian Gaar Yeah, and tonight there’s Matt Sadler, Joe Faina, and Bob Khosravi as guests. *Fri., Jan. 20, 9:30pm. \$5. Dirty Laundry* Austin comics doing their **nastiest, most offensive jokes?** Yes: Cameron Buchholtz, Chad Warren, Isaac Harigle, Chris Gaffney, Amber Bixby, and Kat Ramzinski. *Fri., Jan. 20, 11:30pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE’S MORE!

ZACH ATTACK! This evening of entertainment features **Zach Anner** and Saturday Morning Breakfast Cereal’s **Zach Weiner**, with special guests from Rooster Teeth Productions. *Thu., Jan. 26, 7:30pm. Alamo Drafthouse Lamar, 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320. \$15. www.drafthouse.com.*

GNAP! THEATER LATENIGHTS: No Shame Theatre is the most unfettered performative open mic in this town. Chuck Barris would be impressed. *Fri., Jan. 20, 10pm. Free. Saturday Night Special* features the dynamic duo of **Get Up!** and those sporty fellows of **Knuckleball Now. Sat., Jan. 21, 10pm. \$10. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.gnaptheater.org.**

★ **STEAM, ROSE-COLORED GOGGLES, AND THE FLIGHT OF THE VICTORIANA** Improvised narrative gets fitted with seductive steampunk togs in this new series of shows directed by Audrey Sansom for Gnap! Theater Projects. Adventurous archetypes and their brass-enhanced feats of derring-do are the order of the day this night, good citizen – the order of the *Faraday*, y’might say! *Through Jan. 28. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.gnaptheater.org.*



Returning AGLCC board members Jimmy Flannigan and Ceci Gratias

[We were out of town last week, and the art intended for this week was mistakenly run. Here it is again, with this week’s column, where it makes more sense.]

AGL–CECI A moment of silence, please, to commemorate the return of the **Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce’s** greatest loss from 2009. **Austin Pride 2009** (then hosted by AGLCC) was a community-building, successful pride. Quite a feat for a Pride hosted by a bottom-line-focused chamber of commerce as opposed to a group focused on the community at large. We can all speculate the reasons for the success and warm fuzzies of that particular iteration, but a measurable quantity was **Ceci Gratias**, whose work ethic and Gordian city gov navigation skills are matched only by her instinct for community inclusion. Ceci is pretty much a locomotive of getting shit done. No matter what your politics were in the post-2009 Pride fracas, no matter how you felt about the deportation and exiles (former President

Jimmy Flannigan was ousted in a most obnoxious manner the Monday after the fest), and no matter how silent you remained regarding that stupid maneuver by AGLCC, the minute Ceci picked up and said, “Hell no,” (our words, not hers ... publicly, at least) then left, the chamber should have had the sense to reassess its strategies. But it didn’t. What happened next – the money-sucking poo-fest called Austin Pride 2010 – has been well documented. Why dwell? It’s a new dawn. A new day. It’s 2012. We say: bygones. Plus, AGLCC no longer hosts Pride. The off-shoot **Austin Gay and Lesbian Pride Foundation** does. The new blood of 2011’s Austin Pride Foundation made an effort and succeeded in cleaning up the mess of 2010, paying down some crazy debt. Clean slates for 2012? Sure. In that spirit, let’s celebrate the grace it takes for Ceci and Jimmy to serve again – in light of the unwarranted humiliation they each had to endure for no good reason – and move forward, shall we?



ON OUR GAYDAR

AGLCC WEBSITE RELAUNCH PARTY All shiny and new. A new attitude. Please RSVP *Thu., Jan. 19, 5:30-7:30pm. Sheraton at the Capitol, 701 E. 11th, 478-1111. Free. www.aglcc.org/calendar/AGLCC-Happy-Hour-2012-Jan.*

LILLIAN HELLMAN’S ‘THE CHILDREN’S HOUR’ Those naughty children said that naughty stuff. *Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. 926-6746. \$15, \$20, \$25, or \$30. www.main.org/diffstages.*

DJ SPINN Top 40, country, and old-school hip-hop. *Fridays, 10pm. Town N Country, 1502 W. Ben White, 445-9122. Free. www.townandcountry.com.*

LIZZY CAROLOKE Don’t forget to tip your KJ. *Fridays, 8pm-12mid. Bernadette’s, 2039 Airport. Free.*

META DUEWA JONES AND CHERISE SMITH Jazz, spoken word, and the Harlem Renaissance. Heck yeah. Explore all this and more with two UT dynamos. *Fri., Jan. 20, 7pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. Free.*

THE PAJAMA-JAMMY JAM Live out all your Kid ‘N Play memories at this tribute to PJs at our fave queer dive. Brought to you by the letter T! *Sat., Jan. 21, 9pm-1am. Bernadette’s, 2039 Airport. Free. www.facebook.com/events/308592335838931.*

THE BATHHOUSE DJs Realness & ThelvanParty (Mouthfeel) roll out their barrel of sticky house at this club of grrrr. *Iron Bear, 121 W. Eighth. Free. www.facebook.com/bathhouseaustin.*

QUEERFUNK DISCOPUNK! Darlings Phatty Matty and Chainsaw Hammell round-robin the slinging of drinks and tunes. *Sundays, 8pm-12mid. Bernadette’s, 2039 Airport.*

VOODOO CHILE Different DJs, all vinyl. *Sundays, 10pm. Cheer Up Charlie’s, 1104 E. Sixth, 431-2133.*

QUEERDALINI YOGA For those who’d prefer to focus on chi rather than “he” or “she.” *Mondays, 7-8:15pm. Guari Movement Studio, 1627 Barton Springs Rd. By donation. queerdalini@gmail.com.*

REQUEST DENIED: QUEER PUNK NIGHT Punk, hardcore, goth, darkwave, noise, and power-pop. *Last Wednesday of the month, 10pm. Chain Drive, 504 Willow, 480-9017. Free.*

LIZA: CELLULOID FAGHAG ... we mean Handbag. Mz. Havemeyer tackles and tickles the daughter o’ Dorothy for us friends. (Translation: A local, well-known drag queen is showing *Liza With a Z*; please try to keep up, people.) *Wed., Jan. 25, 7pm. Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. drafthouse.com/series/celluloid_handbag/austin.*

SHITTY KITTY BINGO After Celluloid HB, join Mz. Rebecca for white elephant shenanigans. *Wed., Jan. 25, 9:30pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth. Free to play; \$5 raffle tickets.*

HO-RIZON

KNT LOVE SHOW Explore the palpitant nature of genderfuckery during the gloopiest holiday of the queer. La Glittrix hosts the postshow dance party. *Sat., Feb. 11, 9pm. \$10. www.kingsnthings.org.*

QUEERBOMB LOVE BOMB Watch this space. *Fri. Feb. 10. www.queerbomb.org.*

Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com.
See the full array of Gay Place listings at austinchronicle.com/gay.



Sat., Jan. 21, 8pm. 29th Street Ballroom, 2906 Fruth, 480-9562. \$8-40.
www.spiderhousecafe.com

DANCE

BIG RANGE AUSTIN DANCE FESTIVAL: CALL FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS Why, it's *only* the best, most diverse annual dance festival in the city, people. Deadline: Jan. 20. www.spankdance.com/bigrange.html.

JUKEBOX BELLYDANCE Eighteen bellydance performances including solos, duets, and troupes from the Austin Bellydance Association – but no Middle Eastern music allowed. Ancient movement to modern music! Sat., Jan. 21, 8pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 974-4000. \$10. www.abda.org

MELISSA AMIRA'S CAROUSEL CARAVAN Jeanette hosts this monthly shimmy, featuring a host of hot belly dancers in one of Austin's coolest bars. Every third Saturday, 8pm. Carousel Lounge, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790. Free. www.carousellounge.net.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

OPENING

MIRÓ QUARTET WITH ANTON NEL Strings and percussion as pianist Nel joins the acclaimed foursome for a night of classical beauty. Fri., Jan. 20, 7:30pm. Bates Recital Hall, 27 E. Campus Dr., 471-7764. \$20 (\$17, seniors, UT faculty/staff; \$10, students). www.music.utexas.edu.

CONSPIRARE: JOBY TALBOT'S PATH OF MIRACLES This new work (it's the Southwestern U.S. premiere, no less) by the composer of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* gets the glorious Conspirare treatment for all its Renaissance-style polyphony. Jan. 20-22. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th, 476-6757. \$15. www.conspirare.org.

AUSTIN CHAMBER MUSIC CENTER: TWO TO TANGO Raul Jaurena joins ACMC's fearless leader Michelle Schumann for a program of works by one of Argentina's most celebrated tango composers. Sat., Jan. 21, 7:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0026. \$25. www.austinchambermusic.org.

VISUAL ARTS

EVENTS

FLEX SPACE: MIGRATION PATTERNS DURING WARTIME Christina Sukhgian Houle presents a free performance and video screening that explores the need to fear versus the need to belong, as explored by six performers dressed in costumes made primarily out of toy stuffed animal pelts. Tue.-Wed., Jan. 24-24, 7:30-9pm. 1109 Shady. 210/323-7492. www.tinyurl.com/Migration-Patterns.

COMMON HOUSE ARTIST COLLECTIVE: THE DAILY DECK Josh Row has designed a skateboard graphic every day for the past year. See them all here. Fri., Jan. 20, 7-10pm. 906 E. 49th. www.common-house.com.

ARCHITECTS OF AIR: MIRAZOZO Stop by the Long Center to enter this luminarium, an enormous walk-through sculpture in which glowing seams create a scintillating lattice of light and color, a neon spectacle of beauty. Through Jan. 20. 701 W. Riverside, 474-5664. \$6. www.thelongcenter.org.

Golden Hornet Project: Prokofiev's Fugitive Visions

Dr. Jeff Helmer plays through the entire original set on piano, then an ensemble of seven fantastic players rock out on the new arrangements by Graham Reynolds and Peter Stopschinski.

OPENING

CHAMPION GALLERY: DANIEL HEIDKAMP Yes, *this*. Because this is a solo show by one of the artists who made the Champion's recent Fauvist "Wild Beasts" show a pleasure to experience. So many paintings of people and things, with paintings that look as much like paintings as they do like the subjects depicted, if you see what we mean, and bright with almost hallucinogenic colors. Reception: Thu., Jan. 26, 7-9pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 25. 800 Brazos, 354-1035. www.championcontemporary.com.

CO-LAB: THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTUALITY You think something's gonna happen with that thing there? You think it's gonna, what, *move* and *clank* or *cause that other thing to fall onto the smallest thing near the door*? Think again: **Robert Jackson Harrington's** artwork is on display to fuck with your sense of kinetic potential. Reception: Sat., Jan. 21, 7-11pm. Exhibition: *By appointment only, through Jan. 28*. 613 Allen, 300-8217. www.colabspace.org.

GALLERY BLACK LAGOON: BLOWOUT VII Annual juried exhibition of prints from UT's diverse and talented art students. Reception: Fri., Jan. 20, 7-10pm. Exhibition: Through Jan. 29. 4301-A Guadalupe, 371-8838. www.galleryblacklagoon.com.

PUMP PROJECT: PRESSURE This new large-scale installation by **Brooke Gassiot** fills the Pump Project complex with sculpture, light, sound, and video. Reception (with live music by Ephraim Owens and the Trevor LaBonte jazz trio): Sat., Jan. 21, 7-10pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 15. 702 Shady, 351-8571. www.brookegassiot.com.

YARD DOG FOLK ART: JENNIFER HARRISON The Nova Scotia artist paints Canadian housescapes, reducing the buildings to their simplest recognizable forms. Reception: Sat., Jan. 21, 7-9pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 26. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.

CLOSING

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART: EL ANATSUI The renowned artist's "When I Last Wrote to You About Africa" spans four decades and includes approximately 60 works drawn from public and private collections internationally. Recommended. Through Jan. 22. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

FLEX SPACE: YOU ARE YOUR OWN This exhibition by photographer Matthew Genitempo and sculptor Travis LaMothe showcases the interactions between individuals and nature. Saturdays, through Jan. 21. 1109 Shady. www.pumpproject.org.

ONGOING

ACCESS GALLERY: NATURAL EXPRESSIONS Works on silk by Valerie Shot and wood sculpture by James Nelson. Reception: Sat., Jan. 21, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 10. 3701 Guadalupe #103, 323-6626. www.vsatx.org.

AMOA + ARTHOUSE: EVIDENCE OF HOUDINI'S RETURN Each of the seven artists here – Sterling Allen, Facundo Argañaraz, Strauss Bourque LaFrance, Katja Mater, Christopher Samuels, Justin Swinburne, and J. Parker Valentine – test the boundaries of working abstractly, with found objects and images, reformed digital technologies, and traditional techniques. Rosabelle, believe! Through March 4. 700 Congress, 453-5312. www.arthousetexas.org.

AMOA + ARTHOUSE: TWO TAKES ON ONE SPACE We won't call them AMOAHouse, lest they sic some violent Art Brut mafiosi on us, but look: The newly

merged cultural giants invited Maine-based Lauren Fensterstock and celebrated local Steve Wiman to creatively transform the venerable Driscoll villa out there in the woods. Now the interior and exterior landscapes have become the current exhibition. Much to see and do here: Check the website for more. Through Feb. 19. 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. www.arthousetexas.org.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY Artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru. 78 San Marcos St., 457-0171. www.pablotaobaoastudio.com.

AUSTIN ART CONNECTIONS: ART THAT TELLS A STORY New work by seven Texas artists: Good new work, to be sure, and recommended. See website for details. 786-8721. www.austinartconnections.com.

AUSTIN ART GARAGE Local, diverse, and eminently shoppable. 2200-J S. Lamar, 351-5934. www.austinartgarage.com.

B. HOLLYMAN GALLERY: ANIMALIA Henry Horenstein's series of intimate and intriguing portraits of land and sea creatures. Through Jan. 31. 1202-A W. Sixth, 825-6866. www.bhollymangallery.com.

D BERMAN GALLERY: LANCE LETSCHER The collage artist's new "Work from the Middles Ages" presents the history of books brilliantly exploded via postmodern taxidermy. Through Jan. 28. 111 Old Kyle Road #100, Wimberley, 512/847-3200. www.dbermangallery.com.

DOMY BOOKS: CRIP/BLOOD In the front gallery of this graphic emporium, the artist **Joshua Saunders** fucks with mass perception via a battery of oppositional pairings, irreverent of any difference between the formal and the social. In the back gallery, **Michelle Devereux** displays her paintings of Dudes on Pizza. No, seriously: Dudes. On pizza. Recommended. Through March 1. 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669. www.domystore.com.

GALLERY AT THE J: MONO Y MONO The Women Printmakers of Austin present a show of monographs and monotypes. Through Feb. 28. 7300 Hart, 735-8000. www.womenprintmakers.com.

GRAYDUCK GALLERY: TRUE STORY The purity of perception, the accuracy of memory, and the truth of desires – explored in paintings by Paul Beck and Allen Brewer, as well as watercolor and mixed media by Pat

Snow. See review, p.26. Through Feb. 19. 608-C W. Monroe, 826-5334. www.grayduckgallery.com.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER: BANNED, BURNED, SEIZED, AND CENSORED This is what They had been trying to keep away from you, children, for well-meaning but ultimately pathetic, fear-based reasons. Witness, pay attention, set the world on fire. Through Jan. 22. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.

LAGUNA GLORIA: BUSTER GRAYBILL The artist's *Progeny of Tush Hog*, which includes sculptures, photographs, and video, ranges from the venue's stately interiors to its landscaped grounds. Through Feb. 19. 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. www.amoa.org.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: MADDS LYNNERUP Solo exhibition of new works by the New York-based artist. Through Feb. 4. 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.

MAISON D'ETOILE: ANSLEY K. SPROULL Through March 6. 2109 E. Cesar Chavez, 344-9173.

NEW EAST GALLERY features works by Ricardo Acevedo, Charles Randolph, Gary Flemmons, Gin Daniel, Lauren Bristol, Rachelle Diaz, and more. 1601 E. Fifth #106. www.diversearts.org.

REAL GALLERY: LINES IN THE DARK "Cave Paintings, Cave Drawings and Alterations" by Austin artist Jan Knox. Through Jan. 28. 1101 Navasota #3. 775-0458. www.realgalleryaustin.com.

STUDIO L GALLERY New works by Rita Marie Ross, Jacob Colburn, Daryl G. Colburn, Dorthy Crummer, and more. 2309 Thornton. 577-3479. www.darylgcolburn.com.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: WILL KLEMM A retrospective of the artist's many landscapes in pastels and oils over the past two decades brings the beauty of all outdoors into this fine Westside gallery. Through Jan. 28. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: QUANTIFY ME Laurie Frick draws from neuroscience to construct intricately hand-built work and installations that explore self-tracking and compulsive organization, creating color-coded charts of steps walked, calories expended, weight, sleep, time online, GPS location, daily mood, and more. Through March 10. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.

BUY
TICKETS
AT

LIVENATION.com

Tickets at LiveNation.com, austintheatre.org, the Paramount box office, or charge by phone: (512) 474-1221

www.BILLBURR.com



Paintings by Daniel Heidkamp at Champion Gallery

LITERA

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

CARRIE FOUNTAIN is the featured poet on the Texas Nafas show for January, reading from *Burn Lake* and her upcoming collection. Ric Williams hosts. See your cable TV provider's website for exact times. www.channelaustin.org.

WRITERS LEAGUE OF TEXAS BOOK AWARDS features poet Dean Rader's *Works & Days*; Daphne Kalotay's *Calamity and Other Stories*; Gary M. Lavergne's *Before Brown: Heman Marion Sweatt, Thurgood Marshall, and the Long Road to Justice*; and children's author Barbara Stuber with *Crossing the Tracks*. *Thu., Jan. 19, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

ELIZABETH S. D. ENGELHARDT examines what Southern women's choices about food reveal about race, class, gender, and social power in *Mess of Greens: Southern Gender and Southern Food*. With a panel discussion featuring Carol Ann Sayle from Boggy Creek Farm, Stephanie McClenny of Confituras, and Lara Nixon of Bad Dog Bar Craft. *Fri., Jan. 20, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

META DUEWA JONES AND CHERISA SMITH present *Muse of Music: Jazz Poetry from the Harlem Renaissance to Spoken Word and Enacting Others: Politics and Identity In Eleanor Antin, Nikki S. Lee, Adrian Piper, and Anna Deavere Smith*. *Fri., Jan. 20, 7pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.*

BOOKPEOPLE READINGS Luis Alberto Urrea brings back the hummingbird's daughter in *Queen of America*. *Thu., Jan. 19, 7pm. Saudi-born Keija Parsinen* returns to Austin with *The Ruins of Us*, her award-winning debut novel. *Sat., Jan. 21, 4pm. James Carlos Blake* presents his historical, generation-spanning *Country of the Bad Wolves*. *Sun., Jan. 22, 3pm. Jay Asher and Carolyn Macker: The Future of Us*. *Mon., Jan. 23, 7pm. Local Authors Night* features *Jerry Brown* and *M. E. Patterson* with *Wine and Spirit: A Christian's Guide to Enjoying Wine and Devil's Hand*. *Mon., Jan. 23, 7pm. Kim Simpson: Early 70's Radio: The American Format Revolution*. *Wed., Jan. 25, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

JOHN GREEN presents his YA bestseller *The Fault in Our Stars*. *Sat., Jan. 21, 7pm. Westlake Performing Arts Theatre, 4100 Westbank Dr.*

poem of the issue

What you touched inside
of me was burned by a lake
at the bottom of a hill.
Five year old hands
sculpting sand into the valley
of kings.
Jewels hidden beneath
the surface —
Discover me.
— Kelsey Elizabeth Shipman, "Treasure"

POET DEBRA WINEGARTEN presents her award-winning *There's Jews in Texas?* *Sun., Jan. 22, 4pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.*

NEVADA BARR signs copies of the 17th book in her Anna Pigeon series, *The Rope*. *Mon., Jan. 23, 7pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

BEN MARCUS The most excellent author is in town to present his newest, *The Flame Alphabet*. *Tue., Jan. 24, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

WRITEBYNIGHT Write, read, collaborate, or just kick back and dream: It's the place you've been looking for. See website for details. 322-5242. www.writebynight.net.

BOOK CLUBS? Where bookish folk gather – in a coffee shop, say, or a bookstore or a library – to discuss what they've been reading? Yes, we have a few of those listed online each week.

BOOKPEOPLE CLUBS *Hard Word Club* *Death Along the Spirit Road* by Margaret Coel. *Wed., Jan. 25, 7pm. Happy Hour at the Highball* *Under the Banner of Heaven* by Jon Krakauer. *Thu., Jan. 26, 5:30pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

THE AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY features Robin Cravey speaking on "Poetry as Reportage." *Sat., Jan. 21, 1:30pm. Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock.*

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

MONTHLY POETRY WORKSHOP with poets Barbara Youngblood Carr and Herman Nelson. *Thu., Jan. 19, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

NO PHOTOGRAPHY: DEALING WITH OBSTRUCTION is a WriteByNight and Professional Writers of Austin Deadliners panel with Austin-based photogs Lance Rosenfield and Matt Rainwaters, moderated by Alex Hannaford. *Tue., Jan. 24, 6:30pm. WriteByNight, 322-5242, 322-5242. \$3. www.writebynight.net.*

OPEN MICS

OPEN MICS *Austin Poetry Slam* *Tuesdays, 8pm. 29th Street Ballroom, 2906 Fruth, 480-9562. Multimedia Poetry* *Wednesdays, 6:30pm. Thrice, 909 W. Mary, 447-9743. Fair Bean* *Fridays, 5-7:30pm. Fair Bean Coffee, 2210-I S. First, 444-BEAN. Full English Tea Room* Thom hosts. *Saturdays, 6-9pm. 2000 Southern Oaks. 240-2748. Spoken & Heard* *Sundays, 7-10pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. More listed online!*

MISCELLANEOUS

RIC UP YER EARS *the keys fell out of my pocket years ago & the hole too has swallowed itself & the world is a mountain of locks – rusty city dump, kingdom of lost dogs, pins & wheels & clogs – the river sludge matted – all those dead spindles, looms – the Downs woman & her ball of colored string – a hundred miles is not so long, but when you look into her eyes as she stares off into the black studio ... this is the hole, this very room, this hour, this tangle of thought a rat's nest (J. Kerouac had his reasons trailer park paralysis). explain the threads, unwinding of sad ghosts. Hansel & Gretel, the raw & the cooked, we all live in their oven. Namaste. Untrace.*

COMMUNITY

MLK MEMORIAL & SCREENING Videos throughout the week are free and open to the public. *Through Jan. 20, 10am-5pm. George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926. www.carvermuseum.org.*

BETTINA MAY'S PINUP CLASS Transform yourself from the frumpy Aughty you are now into a glamorous pinup from the 1950s. They supply the hair and makeup transformation, as well as a photographer. All-around posing pro Bettina May will help you get in the right mood and position for your close-up. We expect a lot of updated Facebook profile pics. *Thu., Jan. 19, 3-9pm. Beauty Bar, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943. \$200 (\$50, observe only). bettinamayworkshops@gmail.com, www.pinupclass.com.*

CLOCKWORK CON Break out the goggles and anything with visible cogs and party with fellow retro-futurists. Three days of music, guests, and parties to help you break in those new gun belts and bodices. *Fri.-Sun., Jan. 20-22. Austin Crowne Plaza, 6121 N. I-35, 773-3680. \$60, three-day pass. www.clockwork-con.com.*

ASTROLOGICAL PREDICTIONS PANEL Want a leg up on the competition? Get the inside scoop on 2012 before it happens with a little help from the stars and the people that can read them. *Fri., Jan. 20, 7pm. Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin, 4701 West Gate Blvd., 454-1188. \$10.*

HONKITX FUNDRAISER Remember all those wonderful sounds stomping through our town last March? Well, HONK!TX is coming back for another round of marching band mayhem, but it doesn't happen for free. The show features the Minor Mishap Marching Band and newcomers Dead Musical Capital Band playing to raise money. *Fri., Jan. 20, 10pm-1am. 29th Street Ballroom, 2906 Fruth, 480-9562. \$10 sliding scale. www.honktx.org.*

MOMCOM Leave the kids at home and get together with other moms to share parenting and life secrets and listen to a few professionals in the field of mothering. *Sat., Jan. 21, 8am-5:30pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 944-2160. \$55 (includes lunch). www.momcomaustin.com.*

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION Learn the history of this event before the Texas Dragon Dance Team vows that knowledge right out of you. *Sat., Jan. 21, 10am. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. www.wblibrary.org.*

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION Food, dance, music, martial arts demos, and more ring in the Year of the Yang Water Dragon. That's right, this isn't an ordinary dragon year. Yang water is about movement and creativity, so start partying now. *Sat., Jan. 21, 10am-3pm. Asian American Cultural Center, 11713 Jollyville, 336-5069. Free. www.asianamericanccc.com.*

Day Trips

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Bill's Records in Dallas has been a dynamic part of the retail record industry for 31 years; a little thing like the Internet hasn't changed that. Despite the evolution of the business, Bill Wisener remains a nationally recognized walking encyclopedia of what's rare and beautiful about music.

Bill's career in the industry began by hocking used vinyl records at a flea market in 1973. Eight years later, he opened a record store in North Dallas that became an institution of higher learning and shopping for audiophiles for 26 years. The 8,000-square-foot retail space attracted hundreds of shoppers each day.

By 2007, the traffic had greatly diminished, and Bill's Records moved from supermarket to Quikie Mart size as downloads replaced hard copies. The shop specializes in rare and hard-to-find recordings for the remaining vinyl purists. Everyday he gets calls from people selling their record collections. "There's more sellers than buyers," he says of record collectors.

Ironically, the Internet that nearly killed his business now helps him survive. Most of his sales are through eBay. "The Internet has reduced the value of the most popular records to near zero because there are so many available,"

TEXAS RIFLES REENACTMENT Authentic rifles and authentic uniforms, but, thankfully, no authentic ammo. The Texas Rifles do drills at 1pm, followed by a military skirmish reenactment at 4pm. *Sat., Jan. 21, 1pm. Pioneer Farms, 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr., 837-1215. \$8 (\$6, children). www.pioneerfarms.org.*

KIDS GOT TALENT BENEFIT Twenty-two finalists between the ages of 8 and 18 will compete for a \$10,000 scholarship, and you can help the judges decide who that lucky performer will be. After you've made a dream come true (and shattered a few others), the Greatest American Heroes Band plays into the night. *Sat., Jan. 21, 6:30-11pm. The Westin, 11301 Domain Dr., 391-1800. \$175. www.centerstagetexas.com.*

OCTAVITAS Bring an instrument or just your voice and celebrate the Puerto Rican Christmas season (Las Navidades) with traditional and contemporary songs and dances. *Sun., Jan. 22, 2-5pm. Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Culture Center, 701 Tillery #13, 251-8122. Free. www.prfdance.org.*

HOMELESS COUNT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ECHO, a coalition of local organizations working to end homelessness, needs help tallying local homeless people in parks, campsites, or other public spaces. Training will be provided for the teams of volunteers before hitting the streets. Go online to sign up now. *Sun., Jan. 22, 3-9pm. 361/438-1481. www.austinecho.org/count.*

CONCERT FOR TRACI LAMAR HANCOCK The Band of Heathens, the Marcia Ball Band, and others help raise money for a local musician. See Music Listings, p.60, for more. *Sun., Jan. 22, 6pm. Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424. Donations appreciated. www.traciforgrace.com.*

DINNER & TRAVEL TALES: THAILAND If you're heading east, why not learn where to go and what to do there from veteran travelers? *Mon., Jan. 23, 7pm. Thai Passion, 620 Congress #105, 444-2294. www.hiaustin.org.*

ISLAM 101 New to the basic tenets of Islam? Every week learn something new about this religion and perhaps gain some insight into the international political landscape while you're there. *Wednesdays, 7pm. North Austin Muslim Community Center, 11900 N. Lamar, 491-7148. Free. www.namcc.org/islam101.*

THE BLIND CAFE A gourmet meal accompanied by live music doesn't sound very unique in Austin, but what if it were completely dark? You won't see the band or your food, so your other senses will have to work overtime. Talk to your blind waiter about visual impairment issues, with the proceeds from the evening going to the BELL Program for local blind children. *Thu.-Sat., Jan. 26-28: Thu. & Fri., 6:45pm; Sat., 5:45pm. University Avenue Church of Christ, 1903 University, 476-6088. \$45-95. www.theblindcafe.com/austin-blind-cafe.htm.*



Wisener says, "while it has increased the value of the rare stuff." Bill's Records is at 1317 S. Lamar in Dallas next door to Poor David's Pub. Wisener can be reached at 214/421-1500.

1,070th in a series. Collect them all. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips," is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

PBR Bull Riding



This Travis County Youth Show event will be fun and exciting for the whole family. The Go 4 Broke Band will perform following the event.

Sat., Jan. 21, 7:30pm. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker, 854-4900. \$20, box seats; \$10, general admission; more the day of the event. www.frontgatetickets.com.

SPORTS

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **TEXAS STARS** On Friday, the first 2,500 lucky fans get a free Stars magnet, and on Saturday, my personal favorite promotion: the first 2,500 attendees get a team card set. Vs. Peoria: *Fri., Jan. 20, 7:30pm.* Vs. Houston: *Sat., Jan. 21, 7pm.* Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. \$10-70. www.texasstarshockey.com.

TXRD BOOT CAMP Aspiring roller girls who would like to attend should RSVP to tryouts@txrd.com. Saturday is a beginner class and Sunday's an intro to blocking. \$20 per day. www.txrd.com.

TEXAS RANGERS CARAVAN Tickets for a luncheon with players and front-office personnel from the back-to-back AL champs are on sale now. Autographs will be signed for ticket holders. *Wed., Feb. 1, 11:30am.* United Heritage Center at Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/255-2255. \$40; \$300, table of eight. www.roundrockexpress.com.

★ **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Basketball** Vs. Missouri: *Wed., Jan. 25, 7pm.* \$8-16. **Men's Basketball** Vs. Kansas: *Sat., Jan. 21, 3pm.* Vs. Iowa State: *Tue., Jan. 24, 8pm.* \$8-40. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 471-7744. www.texassports.com.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Sul Ross State: *Thu., Jan. 26, 7:30pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Sul Ross State: *Thu., Jan. 26, 5:30pm.* athletics.concordia.edu.

TEXAS STATE Women's Basketball Vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi: *Wed., Jan. 25, 7pm.* **Men's Basketball** Vs. UT-San Antonio: *Sat., Jan. 21, 4pm.* www.txstatebobcats.com.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Panhandle State: *Thu., Jan. 19, 5:30pm.* Vs. Newman: *Sat., Jan. 21, noon.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Panhandle State: *Thu., Jan. 19, 7:30pm.* Vs. Newman: *Sat., Jan. 21, 2pm.* www.stedwards.edu/athletics.

RECREATION & FITNESS

3V3 WINTER NATIONAL SOCCER TOURNEY Teams from across the U.S. and Mexico are expected. See the website for more. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. www.3v3live.com.

ADULT SPORTS COMMUNITY INPUT Come tell the Parks and Recreation Dept. which programs and services you value in your neighborhood. *Wed., Jan. 18, 6:30pm; Thu., Jan. 19, 9am; Sat., Jan. 21, 1pm.* Fiesta Gardens, 2100 Jesse E. Segovia, 480-8318.

AUSSIE'S CO-ED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES Sign up now. Aussie's Grill & Beachbar, 306 Barton Springs Rd., 480-0952. www.aussiesbar.com.

JCC DODGEBALL TOURNEY Must be 18. Co-ed teams of eight will dodge the "no sting" balls. JCC of Austin, 7300 Hart Ln. *Sun., Jan. 22, 11am.* 735-8206. \$12 preregistration; \$15 day of event. www.shalomatx.org/dodgeball.

★ **FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS** In response to the recent attacks against women, the Moy Yat Kung Fu Academy is offering two months of free two-hour women's self-defense classes. Ages 16 and up. Fill out the form online to sign up. 2105 Justin Ln. #111. www.tkxungfu.com.

TEXAS OUTDOORS WOMAN NETWORK is open to ladies of any age who are interested in outdoor fun. *Tue., Jan. 24, 6pm.* LCRA Red Bud Complex, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd. room RBC 225. www.townaustin.org.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

★ **AUSTIN GORILLA RUN** Work off some pounds running a 5K in a gorilla suit, with food and music afterward – all to benefit mountain gorillas. *Sat., Jan. 21, 9am.* 1st St. Bridge, S. First & Riverside, 817/219-0587. \$100; \$50, returning gorilla (already own gorilla suit); \$45, little gorilla. www.austingorillarun.com.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION RUN FAMILY 5K *Sat., Jan. 21, 8:30am.* \$25, adult; \$20, 12 & under. Brushy Creek Park, 3300 Brushy Creek Rd., Cedar Park, 745-7133. www.trifasterevents.com.

PINTS FOR PR'S is a fundraiser for TeamRogue Elite. *Sat., Jan. 21, 1pm.* \$10 (includes three beer tickets). Hops & Grain Brewery, 507 Calles St., 493-0920. www.facebook.com/events/354764191205965.

WILD CARDS

MICHAEL LEE LANNING presents his book *Double T, Double-Cross: The Firing of Coach Mike Leach, The Backroom Deal That Deflated the Red Raider Nation.* *Tue., Jan. 24, 6pm.* Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

Soccer Watch BY NICK BARBARO

Theo Zwanziger, president of the German soccer federation, has called on **gay soccer players** "to have the courage to declare themselves," the Huffington Post reports. German national team captain **Philipp Lahm** replied in an interview with Fr-Online.de that it wasn't so easy for players to declare their homosexuality to teammates, though he acknowledged times had certainly changed in Germany. "The politicians can come out these days, for sure," said Lahm, "but they don't have to play in front of 60,000 people every week."

There's no better rivalry in the world right now than **Barcelona vs. Real Madrid** – great teams, great history, great personalities, and Madrid has the two guys everyone loves to hate: **Jose Mourinho** and **Cristiano Ronaldo**. Barca has clearly had their number recently, winning the last three Spanish league titles, plus Champions League and World titles in two of the last three years – not to mention seven wins and just one loss in the last 10 head-to-head **clásicos**. The two were drawn to face each other in the **Copa del Rey** quarterfinals this week, and Real had some momentum going in, having built a five-point lead in the league standings and hosting the game in one of the most intimidating stadiums in the world. But the Catalans spoiled Madrid's party yet again, coming back from an early goal as they had in league play in December, this time by a 2-1 score. The **return leg** in Barcelona should be a raucous affair; ESPN Deportes will carry it live at 3pm Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Locally, it's a quiet period as we await play starting up again soon in the **rec leagues** and **high schools**, as well as further news from the **Austin Aztex** (15 weeks till kickoff; can't wait).

KIDS

STORYTIME AT THE FRENCH LEGATION MUSEUM

Activities and stories perfect for the 3- to 5-year-old in the brood. *First and third Thursdays of the month, 9:30am.* French Legation Museum, 802 San Marcos St., 472-8180. Free. www.frenchlegationmuseum.org.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS SOUTH FREE MEMBER-SHIPS

Got a kid between the ages of 6 and 18 who could use some afterschool distraction? Now is the time to sign up for classes at the B&GC south location since membership is gratis. *Mon.-Fri., 3-8pm, through Jan. 29.* Boys & Girls Club of Austin & Travis Co., 211 W. Johanna, 444-6369. www.bgcaustin.org.

WHAT'S THE STORY STEVE? Kids should put their improvising caps on because there will be an interactive and off-the-cuff story to tell and the cast will certainly need your help. So will Steve, the improvising poodle. *Saturdays, 10am.* ColdTowne Theater, 4803-B Airport. Pay what you want. www.moveyourtale.com.

YOUTH CAPOEIRA Does your kid like martial arts, dance, or music? What about all three at the same time? If so, this capoeira class is just the ticket. For kids between the ages of 5 and 12. *Saturdays, 11am.* Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 974-3785. \$5. www.maccaustin.org.

JAN BOZARTH sprinkles her bestselling works with Fairy Godmother Academy Book #5: *Sumi's Book*. Put on your wings! Beautiful! *Sat., Jan. 21, noon.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

BOW WOW READING DOGS The Austin Dog Alliance invites kids to get more acquainted with the written word as a reading therapy dog assists. Call to sign up. *Saturdays through Jan. 28, noon.* Wells Branch Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. www.wbllibrary.org.

PAMELA FERGUSON debuts her children's novel, *Sunshine Picklelime*. *Sat., Jan. 21, 2pm.* Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

ADVENTURE ROOM IMPROV A boy, magical toys, suggestions from the young audience, and improvisers to make it all come to life. Prepare to be wowed. *Sundays, 2pm.* The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$7. www.flyingtheatremachine.com.

FUTURE SCIENTISTS JAMBOREE The words "science" and "jamboree" aren't often used together. But what better way to describe a day filled with hands-on experiments, robots, a planetarium, and food trailers, plus a visit from the brainy but cute Enzo from *Exploration Nation*? Did we mention there will be free pizza? That's not educational, but it is delicious. *Sun., Jan. 22, 3-8pm.* Stunt Ranch, 13317 Fitzhugh, 663-7393. \$25 (\$15, advance); kids, free. www.enzoology.com.

DANCE AUDITIONS FOR VIDEO SHOOT Girls 8 to 18 with experience in any dance form are invited to audition for a video shoot for the Fairy Godmother Academy. Bring a photo. *Thu., Jan. 26.* Galaxy Dance Studios, 1700 S. Lamar #338, 442-5299. www.fairygodmotheracademy.com.

OUT OF TOWN

STARGAZING AT THE ROUGHS Explore the night skies through a Dobsonian telescope and learn about the constellations and stars. *Fri., Jan. 20, 8:30-10pm.* McKinney Roughs Nature Park, Bastrop, 512/303-5073. Free. www.lcra.org/mckinneyroughs.

PORT AND PAIRINGS Sweet Treats owner Cathy Locke will be pairing the winery's Texas Ruby Port with handmade chocolate truffles while supplies last. *Sat., Jan. 21, 11am-6pm.* Pedernales Cellars, Stonewall, 830/644-2037. www.pedernalescellars.com.

TEXAS STATE PARTNERS DOMINO CHAMPIONSHIP Stop by to see teams competing for a trophy and bragging rights, or grab one of the barbecue chicken lunch plates. *Sun., Jan. 22.* KC Hall, Hallettsville, 361/798-2311. Free. www.kchall.com.

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Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close

NEW REVIEWS

BUSINESS MAN

D: Puri Jagannadh; with Mahesh Babu, Kajal Agarwal, Prakash Raj. (NR, 126 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. This gangster-actioner features second-generation Telugu cinema star Mahesh Babu (*Pokiri*).

– Kimberley Jones

Tinseltown South

EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE

D: Stephen Daldry; with Thomas Horn, Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock, Max von Sydow, Viola Davis, Jeffrey Wright, Zoe Caldwell. (PG-13, 129 min.)

Ten years on, and attempts to dramatize 9/11 are still a sticky wicket. This adaptation of Jonathan Safran Foer's bestselling 2005 novel does itself no favors by making pretty visual poetry of a falling man its very first image, and it feels like an affront – an atonal picture of placidity as code for something unspeakably awful. I'm not arguing against poetic license here – and surely it's the work of an artist to try to find words for those unspeakable things – but Daldry's opening act is a hackles-raiser.

Where you come down on the characterization of its protagonist, a maybe-autistic motor-mouth 11-year-old named Oskar Schell (Horn), will either smooth those hackles or stand them at attention for two hours. Reeling from

the death of his father, Thomas (Hanks), in the World Trade Center attacks, Oskar is convinced his father has left him a mission, in the spirit of the "reconnaissance expeditions" the two used to caper around the city on, in search of a mythic sixth borough. By accident, Oskar discovers a key in search of a lock, and his only clue – the surname of Black, scribbled on an envelope. From there, Oskar must overcome his debilitating terrors and tics to quiz every Mr., Mrs., or Ms. Black in the city, looking to ferret out some connection to his father, while his mother (Bullock) shambles at home, near-catatonic with grief. Daldry and his adapter, Eric Roth (*Forrest Gump*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*), seamlessly integrate into Oskar's outings flashbacks to before his father died and to 9/11 – "the worst day," as Oskar calls it – to create multiple layers of suspense that move the film forward until it sogs in its last act.

A first-time actor, Horn dominates the film through screen time and force of presence. His portrayal of Oskar is admirably off-putting, bristling with a sincere and full-bodied intensity. (He has a way of vomiting out words that feels true to an overburdened boy forever on the knife's edge of a panic attack.) His lunging, logorrheic portrait contrasts well with that of Max von Sydow, as a neighbor and shut-in who emerged from the Dresden

bombings emotionally ravaged and mute, and Daldry, something of an overemoter, etches with moving restraint their mutual hunger for connection in a wordless scene in which Horn does nothing so special as feeds von Sydow a juice box.

As a portrait of what happens to a family when its glue disappears, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* wrung a bucket of tears out of me. As unlikely a pairing as Hanks and Bullock seem, they establish with economy and unshowy sentiment a loving partnership, and Hanks' distinctively playful persona works well here, as a patient parent who knows how to communicate with his uneasy son and swallow his occasional disappointments. But Daldry's seeming magnetic pull toward the maudlin – which ruined his last picture, *The Reader* – means every raw spot must be assuaged, every downcast face uplifted with a swelling score and swoopy camera. And back to that falling man: He reemerges, all pretty poetry, to coda the film. The heart, pried open, slams shut again.

★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Lamar, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

HAYWIRE

D: Steven Soderbergh; with Gina Carano, Ewan McGregor, Michael Fassbender, Channing Tatum, Michael Douglas, Antonio Banderas, Michael Angarano. (R, 93 min.)

Is Steven Soderbergh still planning on quitting the movies to focus on his painting? If so, this may be your last chance to catch the director in full-blown action/thriller mode. (Although it'd be unspeakably cool to see him incorporate some fetishistic mano a mano mayhem into his upcoming Liberace biopic, like, for instance, a Bondian flamethrower/candelabra or a rhinestone-encrusted Steinway that doubles as a UFO. Just sayin'.)

Haywire is a technically exemplary but otherwise unremarkable piece of fisticuffs filmmaking keyed to Soderbergh's particularly brutal vision of onscreen physicality. And since it stars famed mixed martial artist and former American Gladiator Gina Carano as an ultrabadass femme fatale with all the right moves, it's something of an anomaly in Hollywood: a film that places an uncompromising and murderous female protagonist at the very heart of the story and then never reins her in. The same might be said regarding Zoe Saldana's turn in the recent *Colombiana*, but that film lacked the cohesive sparks that continually pop into being throughout *Haywire*. (Digressive recommendation: If you really, really want to see a female action star gone absolutely haywire, you need to check out Thai MMA wonder woman Jeeja Yanin Vismitananda in 2008's *Chocolate*.)

Carano is Mallory Kane, a globe-trotting government contractor (i.e. assassin) who finds herself the victim of a double- (possibly triple-) cross after a rescue mission in Barcelona goes ... well, you know. Unsure whom to trust, Kane wields both her omnipresent guns and her body as fluidly as any ballerina, making for some of the more interesting close-quarter combat choreography in recent memory. Alas, the film fighting may be virtuoso, but the script by Lem Dobbs is weirdly unmemorable. That's a puzzler, because Dobbs previously penned one of Soderbergh's greatest films, *The Limey*, and there are similarities between the two films beyond all the muzzle flash. Surrounded by professional actors of the highest caliber, Carano acquits herself admirably, but the storyline eventually feels like a pretty weak excuse to hang a half-dozen action set-pieces from. For all its kiss bang, bang bang, *Haywire* ends up feeling as hollow as the points on Mallory Kane's 9mm ammo.

★★★ – Marc Savlov
Alamo Lamar, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

MAN ON A MISSION: RICHARD GARRIOTT'S ROAD TO THE STARS

D: Mike Woolf. (NR, 82 min.)

A self-made gaming mogul with a flair for theatricality buys himself a \$30 million ticket to space via a Russian Soyuz craft. Sounds like the stuff of sci-fi, no? In fact, that's Austin's own impresario of the eccentric Richard Garriott, whom Austin's Beef & Pie Productions followed as he trained for a year to fulfill a boyhood ambition of following his father, Spacelab's Owen Garriott, to the stars.

In 2008, Garriott became the first second-generation American space traveler when he blasted off from Kazakhstan, a setting that

gives the film its powerful opening imagery of the rocket being carted via train tracks to the launch pad. That's the first jaw-dropper, but it isn't the last: *Man on a Mission: Richard Garriott's Road to the Stars* moves freely through NASA training facilities and Russian mess halls and finally into the International Space Station, where Garriott bunked out for 10 days and brought a camera along to document his historic voyage.

Beef & Pie has previously crafted award-winning short films about quirky characters, from the competitive beardsmen of "Growin' a Beard" to the marble enthusiasts of "Life Is Marbleous," and Garriott certainly seems to fall in line with these charismatic eccentrics. The black-and-white of his CV – he self-published his first role-playing computer game while still in high school and became the architect of the *Ultima* franchise – is that of a serious self-starter. But it's the between-the-lines embellishments – a richly imagined alter ego named Lord British, for instance, or a predilection for snakes that includes a foot-long braid that takes on a life of its own in zero gravity – that sets expectations high for this documentary exploration of him.

But while *Man on a Mission* doesn't precisely neuter Garriott's weirder ways, it does push them aside for a more boilerplate message of the father/son bond. (Curiously, the film includes a clip from *The Colbert Report* in which Stephen Colbert signs off from the interview with "good luck getting my DNA to space" – a cryptic aside for anyone not already in the know that the comedian was referencing a Garriott campaign for which he gathered DNA material to take on the trip with him. It's a distraction.) There is, quite simply, no dissent in the film – no significant discussion of ethics involving the privatization of space, for instance, a subject ripe for back-and-forth – and it has no narrative viewpoint of its own. Too often, the camera simply trains on Garriott as he narrates his adventures with a tour guide's benignancy and press-release-like talking points. It's only when he goes off-message – goofing on the space station or exploring the complexities of maneuvering sans gravity – that the film loosens from the feel of an officially sanctioned promotional film and gets at the giddiness of man suddenly made boy again.

★★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Alamo Lamar

RED TAILS

D: Anthony Hemingway; with Cuba Gooding Jr., Terrence Howard, David Oyelowo, Method Man, Bryan Cranston. (PG-13, 125 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. George Lucas exec produced – and bankrolled – this action/drama about the historic Tuskegee Airmen. Written by John Ridley (*Three Kings*) and Aaron McGruder (*The Boondocks*). – Kimberley Jones
Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING

D: Måns Mårland, Björn Stein; with Kate Beckinsale, Michael Ealy, India Eisley, Sandrine Holt. (R, 95 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. When humans sniff out the existence of vampires and Lycans, all hell breaks loose. Starring franchise regular Kate Beckinsale. – Kimberley Jones
Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

FIRST RUNS

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN

D: Steven Spielberg; with Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis, Daniel Craig, Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Cary Elwes, Toby Jones. (PG, 107 min.)

The Adventures of Tintin is a cracking good adventure film. Add to that the photorealistic animation and the wickedly immersive 3-D, and you've got a huge holiday smash on your hands. What you don't have, however, is a great movie. The film is adapted from Belgian artist Hergé's long-running, French-language comic book series about Tintin, an intrepid young Belgian journalist with a penchant for stumbling into mysteries. Director Spielberg mines several Hergé stories to create a typically complex series of risky, slapstick adventures for the young hero as he searches for an elusive treasure of pirate gold, among many other items of value. Tintin, despite his titular role, comes off as blandly heroic as a Eisenhower-era Boy Scout. But that's Tintin for you, and there's no changing him. *The Adventures of Tintin* is a spectacle and a half, sure, but, unlike the original comic, it fails to inspire. (12/23/2011)

★★★ – Marc Savlov
Alamo Village, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED

D: Mike Mitchell; with Jason Lee, David Cross, Jenny Slate; with the voices of Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney, Amy Poehler, Anna Faris, Christina Applegate, Alan Tudyk. (G, 87 min.)

Admittedly, I'm coming to this movie with prejudicial eyes and ears. It's just that Alvin and the Chipmunks were never meant to appeal to anyone whose age had outgrown single digits. *Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked* uses lifeless CGI animation to tell a haphazard tale about singing sensations Alvin, Simon, and Theodore, as well as their three backup singers known as the Chipettes, becoming stranded on a remote island. As the film begins, they are traveling to Europe on an ocean liner with their human surrogate dad, Dave (Lee), to collect a prize at the International Music Awards. After they fall overboard and wind up stranded, things take a turn for the tedious. The entire payoff to the Chipmunks' gambit comes in those inevitable moments when Dave bellows in exasperation, "Alvin." Maybe if we all bellow in unison it will be forceful enough to put an end to this painful franchise. (12/16/2011)

★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

★ THE ARTIST

D: Michel Hazanavicius; with Jean Dujardin, Bérénice Bejo, John Goodman, James Cromwell, Penelope Ann Miller, Missi Pyle, Malcolm McDowell. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Director Michel Hazanavicius' *The Artist* is an irresistible comic gem. It opens in 1927 when silent film star George Valentin (Dujardin) is the toast of all Hollywoodland. Utterly convinced that those new-

fangled talking pictures are just a fad, George's inability to rise to the challenge of speaking aloud (*The Artist* is silent except for a few inspired audio gags) provides much amusement and a certain bittersweet note in a film that glorifies the sheer imaginative heft of the silent era (the film is also shot in black-and-white). As George's producer (Goodman) badgers him to speak, the silent actor and his firecracker par amour, Peppy Miller (Bejo), are steadily forced apart by the advent of sound. What's so intensely pleasurable about *The Artist* is the endless parade of smartly creative and self-referential gags. *The Artist* is a slight confection, really, but it's so delicious and knowing that it may well end up on any number of cineastes' desert-island lists. (12/23/2011)

★★★★ – Marc Savlov
Alamo Lamar, Arbor, Hill Country Galleria, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

D: Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise; with the voices of Paige O'Hara, Robby Benson, Angela Lansbury. (G, 84 min.)

Beauty and the Beast is a partial return to form for Disney, and regardless of what this jaded adult may think, it is a thing of beauty for our kids. Twenty years after its initial release, it returns to theatres with a 3-D update. (01/13/2012)

★★★★ – Kathleen Maher
Alamo Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

★ CARNAGE

D: Roman Polanski; with Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Christoph Waltz, John C. Reilly. (R, 79 min.)

Adapted by Yasmina Reza and director Roman Polanski from Reza's hit play *God of Carnage*, this chamber piece will have you climbing the walls after 79 minutes with its faux-polite but distinctly fanged Brooklynite parents. After one boy grabs a stick and takes a mighty whack at another, their mothers and fathers meet for coffee and conciliation – neither Reza nor Polanski is a native English speaker, but they share an ear for the bafflegab of helicoptering parents – but soon enough the parents are picking up the metaphorical weapons of their sons. *Carnage* is a slight work, and the filmmakers' obvious disdain for the characters grows wearisome. Still, the script is chockablock with al dente amusements – obvious targets still make for wickedly funny one-liners – and the German actor Christophe Waltz is terrific as the only parent unburdened by decorum. The scenery may be thin, but Waltz chews it with wolfish abandon. (01/13/2012)

★★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Arbor, Violet Crown

CONTRABAND

D: Baltasar Kormákur; with Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale, Giovanni Ribisi, Ben Foster, Lukas Haas, Diego Luna, Caleb Landry Jones, J.K. Simmons. (R, 109 min.)

Although there's little that's new in this story about a man forced to pull one last smuggling job as everything that could go wrong does, *Contraband* stands out for its stylistic efficiency, stellar cast, and narrative restraint. As the character at the center of *Contraband*, Mark Wahlberg is a stolid, believably stand-up guy who has abandoned his life of crime



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Sun. - Thu. 2:40 3:00 5:00 5:20 7:15 7:35 9:30 9:50
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (R) Fri. - Thu. 12:15 12:45
HAYWIRE (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:05 2:35 4:55 7:20 9:45 11:45
Sun. - Thu. 12:05 2:35 4:55 7:20 9:45
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 1:00 4:00 7:05 10:00
RED TAILS (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 1:00 4:00 7:10 10:10
JOYFUL NOISE (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 1:45 4:30 7:10 9:40 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 1:45 4:30 7:10 9:40
CONTRABAND (R) Fri. - Thu. 12:05 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 3D (G) Fri. & Sat. 2:15 4:30 6:50 9:15 11:30
Sun. - Thu. 2:15 4:30 6:50 9:15
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (G) Fri. - Thu. 12:00
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SHOWTIMES

ALAMO DRAFHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily by phone or website.
Music Monday: ACL Real Rarities: Leonard Cohen: Mon, 7:00pm
Late Show: Allen: The Director's Cut: Fri, 11:45pm; Sat, 11:30pm; Sun, 10:00pm; Mon, 9:45pm
Master Pancake: Back to the Future: Fri, 7:00pm; Sat, 7:00, 10:00
Master Pancake: Choose Your Own Master Pancake: Sun, 7:00pm
***Contraband:** Fri, 3:50, 6:15, 9:00; Sat, 1:30, 3:00, 4:10, 6:00, 8:45; Sun, 1:15, 2:00, 4:05, 4:50, 7:45; Mon, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; Tue, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; Wed, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15; Thu (1/26), 4:45, 7:30, 10:30
Asian Invasion: Dreadnought: Sun, 10:30pm
Terror Turns: Henry Portrait of a Serial Killer: Tue, 9:45pm
Celuloid Handbag: Liza With a Z: Wed, 7:00pm
Action Pack: Love Bites: The Power Ballad Sing-Along: Thu (1/26), 10:10pm
Weird Wednesday: Messiah of Evil: Wed, 9:45pm
Action Pack: Moulin Rouge Sing-Along: Thu (1/26), 7:00pm
Girlie Night: Sixteen Candles: Tue, 7:00pm

ALAMO DRAFHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-5408. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily by phone or website.
Action Pack: Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along: Sun, 7:00pm; Thu (1/26), 7:00pm
***Beauty and the Beast (3-D):** Fri-Sat, 1:00pm; Sun, 12:45pm
***Beauty and the Beast (3-D):** Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 11:00am, 1:45, 4:15, 9:45pm
***Contraband:** Fri, 10:05am, 1:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00pm; Sat, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00pm; Sun, 10:05am, 1:45, 4:00, 10:00pm; Mon-Wed, 1:45, 3:30, 7:15, 10:00; Thu (1/26), 1:45, 3:30, 9:45
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close: Fri-Sat, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15; Sun, 10:30am, 1:45, 3:00, 6:30, 9:45pm; Mon-Wed, 10:30am, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15pm; Thu (1/26), 10:15am, 1:40, 4:15, 7:30, 10:00pm
***The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo:** Fri-Sat, 12:30, 3:30, 7:30, 9:45; Sun, 12:30, 3:15, 7:30, 9:30pm; Mon-Wed, 11:45am, 3:30, 7:30, 9:30pm; Thu (1/26), 11:45am, 3:30, 7:15, 9:30pm
***Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol:** Fri, 10:00am, 4:15, 6:45, 11:00pm; Sat, 4:00, 6:45, 11:00; Sun, 10:00am, 4:15, 6:45, 11:00pm; Mon-Wed, 4:15, 6:15, 11:00; Thu (1/26), 4:00, 6:15, 10:45
Big Screen Classics: Rear Window: Mon-Thu (1/26), 7:00pm
***Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows:** Fri, 10:45am, 1:00, 4:30, 7:45, 10:45pm; Sat, 10:00am, 1:00, 4:30, 7:45, 10:45pm; Sun, 10:45am, 1:00, 4:30, 7:45, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 10:45am, 12:40, 3:40, 7:45, 10:45pm
***Underworld: Awakening:** Sat, 1:30pm
***Underworld: Awakening (3-D):** Fri-Sat, 12:15, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Sun, 12:15, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30, 10:45pm; Mon-Wed, 12:15, 3:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Thu (1/26), 12:15, 1:15, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

ALAMO DRAFHOUSE LAMAR 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262. Showtimes subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily by phone or website.
The Artist: Fri, 11:05am, 1:35, 4:05, 9:45pm; Sat, 1:45, 4:15, 9:45; Sun, 1:00, 4:50, 9:45pm; Mon, 1:45, 4:15, 9:45; Tue, 11:05am, 1:35, 4:05, 9:45pm; Wed, 1:40, 4:10, 9:30; Thu (1/26), 11:05am, 1:35, 4:05, 9:45pm
Action Pack: The Big Lebowski Quote-Along: Mon, 10:15pm
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs: Sat, 11:00am
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close: Fri, 1:20, 4:20, 7:40, 10:45; Sat, 12:50, 3:55, 7:40, 10:45pm; Sun, 1:35, 3:40, 7:40, 10:45pm; Mon, 1:30, 4:30, 7:50, 10:55pm; Tue, 1:20, 4:20, 10:20; Wed, 1:30, 4:30, 7:45pm; Thu (1/26), 1:20, 4:20, 10:45
AFS: Faust: Tue, 7:00pm
***The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo:** Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 2:45, 6:25, 9:00pm; Mon, 1:00, 6:35, 9:30; Tue, 11:15am, 2:45, 9:30pm; Wed, 1:10, 4:20, 6:20, 10:00; Thu (1/26), 11:05am, 2:35, 6:45, 9:50pm
***Haywire:** Fri, 10:55am, 2:05, 4:35, 8:00, 10:40pm; Sat, 2:05, 4:35, 8:00, 10:40; Sun, 11:10am, 2:05, 4:35, 8:00, 10:40pm; Mon, 1:10, 4:45, 8:10, 10:50; Tue, 10:55am, 2:00, 4:30, 8:00, 10:40pm; Wed, 1:05, 4:45, 8:10, 10:55; Thu (1/26), 10:55am, 1:35, 4:05, 6:30, 10:55pm
Food & Film: Hook: Wed, 7:00pm
The Iron Lady: Fri, 10:45am, 1:15, 3:50, 6:40, 10:00pm; Sat, 11:10am, 1:25, 4:40, 6:40, 10:00pm; Sun, 10:45am, 1:15, 3:50, 6:40, 10:00pm; Mon, 1:20, 4:40, 6:50; Tue, 10:45am, 1:15, 3:50, 7:30, 10:10pm; Wed, 1:00, 7:50, 10:30; Thu (1/26), 10:45am, 1:15, 3:50, 10:20pm
***Man on a Mission: Richard Garrett's Road to the Stars:** 7:00pm
***The Huggies:** Fri-Sun, 11:25am; Mon, 5:45pm; Tue, 11:20pm; Wed, 3:30pm; Thu (1/26), 11:25pm
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy: Fri, 10:50am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:20, 10:25pm; Sat, 1:50, 4:50, 7:20, 10:25; Sun, 10:50am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:20, 10:25pm; Mon, 2:00, 5:00, 7:30, 10:35; Tue, 10:50am, 1:50, 4:50, 6:25, 9:55pm; Wed, 1:20, 3:40, 7:25, 10:40; Thu (1/26), 10:50am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:50pm

ALAMO DRAFHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee Baby Day shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and their children younger than 6. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily times by phone or website.
The Adventures of Tintin: Fri, 10:50am; Sat-Sun, 10:55am; Mon, 4:35pm; Tue, 10:55am; Wed, 3:35pm; Thu (1/26), 4:30pm
Action Pack: Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along: Wed, 7:00pm
Explosion: Deep Red: Fri, 11:30pm
TV at the Alamo: Glee: Tue, 9:45pm
***Hugo:** Fri-Sue, 6:30pm; Wed, 7:30pm; Thu (1/26), 7:00pm
***Hugo (3-D):** Fri, 12:00, 3:15, 9:45; Sat, 3:15, 9:45; Sun, 3:15, 9:45pm; Tue, 12:00, 3:15; Wed, 3:45, 9:45; Thu (1/26), 4:45, 10:35
***Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol:** Fri, 12:30, 3:40, 7:00; Sat, 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:25; Sun, 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15; Mon, 3:40, 7:00, 10:20; Tue, 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:20; Wed, 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
***Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows:** Fri, 1:35, 4:45, 8:00, 10:25; Sat, 1:35, 4:45, 8:00, 11:10; Sun, 1:35, 4:45, 8:00, 11:00; Mon, 7:30, 10:40; Tue, 1:35, 4:45, 7:55, 11:00; Wed, 3:40, 9:50; Thu (1/26), 7:30, 10:45
***Underworld: Awakening (3-D):** Fri, 11:45am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05pm; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon, 3:05, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Tue, 11:45am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:00pm; Wed, 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:30; Thu (1/26), 3:50, 6:00, 10:25

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm.
The Artist: 12:10, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05
Carnage: 12:05, 2:20, 4:40, 7:50, 10:00
A Dangerous Method: 1:00, 9:35
The Descendants: 12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 9:45pm
Opera: The Enchanted Island: Sat, 11:55am
The Iron Lady: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10
Pariah: 12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55
Shame: Fri, 12:40, 3:20, 7:10, 9:50; Sat, 7:10, 9:50; Sun-Thu (1/26), 12:40, 3:20, 7:10, 9:50
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy: 12:30, 3:30, 6:40, 9:40
Young Adult: 3:40, 6:50

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.
***Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital):** Fri-Sun, 9:40am, 11:45, 1:50pm; Mon, 11:50am, 1:55pm; Wed-Thu (1/26), 11:50am, 1:55pm
***Beauty and the Beast (3-D):** Fri-Sun, 9:00am, 2:25, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon, 2:25, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30; Wed, 2:25, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30; Thu (1/26), 2:25, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30, 11:45
***Beauty and the Beast (digital):** Fri-Mon, 12:05pm; Wed-Thu (1/26), 12:05pm
***Contraband (digital):** Fri-Sat, 9:40am, 12:15, 2:55, 5:30, 8:20, 11:00pm; Sun, 9:40am, 12:15, 2:55, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45pm; Mon, 12:15, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20; Wed-Thu (1/26), 12:15, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
***The Descendants (digital):** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 2:05, 5:00, 7:40, 10:25pm; Mon, 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20; Wed-Thu (1/26), 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20
***Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close:** Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15pm; Mon, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Wed-Thu (1/26), 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
***The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo:** Fri-Sat, 9:40am, 1:00, 4:25, 7:50, 11:15pm; Sun, 9:40am, 1:00, 4:25, 7:50pm; Mon, 12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00; Wed, 12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00; Thu (1/26), 12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00
***Haywire:** Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 12:45, 3:15, 5:40, 8:10, 10:25pm; Mon, 12:45, 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25; Wed-Thu (1/26), 12:45, 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25
***The Iron Lady (digital):** Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:35, 3:05, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:35, 3:05, 5:30, 8:10, 10:40pm; Mon, 12:35, 3:05, 5:30, 8:05, 10:35; Wed-Thu (1/26), 12:35, 3:05, 5:30, 8:05, 10:35
***Joyful Noise:** Fri-Sat, 9:40am, 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:10pm; Sun, 9:40am, 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:15, 10:50pm; Mon, 2:15, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15; Wed, 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15; Thu (1/26), 2:15, 4:55, 7:35
***Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol:** Fri-Sat, 10:50am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:55pm; Sun, 10:50am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50pm; Mon, 1:40, 4:35, 7:40, 10:35; Wed-Thu (1/26), 1:40, 4:35, 7:40, 10:35
***Red Tails (digital):** Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 1:10, 4:05, 7:10, 10:05pm; Mon, 1:10, 4:05, 7:10, 10:05; Wed-Thu (1/26), 1:10, 4:05, 7:10, 10:05
***Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (digital):** Fri-Sat, 11:20am, 2:15, 5:20, 8:10, 11:05pm; Sun, 11:20am, 2:15, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50pm; Mon, 1:20, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05; Wed, 1:20, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05; Thu (1/26), 1:20, 4:25, 10:20
***Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (digital):** Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 1:40, 4:35, 7:40, 10:35pm; Mon, 1:20, 4:15, 7:05, 9:55; Wed, 1:20, 4:15, 7:05
***Underworld: Awakening (3-D):** Fri-Sat, 4:00, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50; Sun, 4:00, 6:10, 8:30, 10:45; Mon, 4:00, 6:05, 8:15, 10:30; Wed-Thu (1/26), 4:00, 6:05, 8:15, 10:30
***Underworld: Awakening (3-D, IMAX):** Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:25, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50pm; Mon, 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50; Wed, 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50; Thu (1/26), 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45, 12mid

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
***The Adventures of Tintin (3-D):** Fri, 1:30, 4:00; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:30, 4:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:30, 4:00
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital): Fri, 2:10, 4:30; Sat, 4:30pm; Sun, 11:50am, 2:10, 4:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 2:10, 4:30
Beauty and the Beast (3-D): Fri, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15
Contraband (digital): Fri, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
The Devil Inside (digital): 6:30, 8:50
Opera: The Enchanted Island: Sat, 11:55am
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (digital): Fri, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (digital): 10:00pm
Haywire (digital): 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
Joyful Noise (digital): Fri, 12:50, 3:40, 6:20, 9:10; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 12:50, 3:40, 6:20, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 12:50, 3:40, 6:20, 9:10
***Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (digital):** Fri, 3:10, 6:10, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:10, 6:10, 9:20; Mon-Thu (1/26), 3:10, 6:10, 9:20
Red Tails (digital): Fri, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (digital): 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
Underworld: Awakening (3-D): Fri, 4:00, 6:40, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:40, 4:00, 6:40, 9:00; Mon-Thu (1/26), 4:00, 6:40, 9:00
Underworld: Awakening (digital): Fri, 1:40pm; Sat-Sun, 11:10am; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:40pm
War Horse (digital): 7:00, 10:20
We Bought a Zoo (digital): Fri, 1:20, 4:20, 7:10; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:20, 4:20, 7:10

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14 12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.
The Adventures of Tintin (3-D): 1:20, 7:40
The Adventures of Tintin (digital): Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 5:00, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 5:00, 10:20
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital): Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:25pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:25pm
The Artist (digital): Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30
Beauty and the Beast (3-D): Fri-Sun, 2:15, 4:45, 7:35, 10:05; Mon-Thu (1/26), 4:45, 7:35, 10:05
Beauty and the Beast (digital): Fri-Sun, 11:30am; Mon-Thu (1/26), 2:15pm
Contraband (digital): Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (digital): 12:35, 3:50, 7:10, 10:10
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (digital): Fri, 12:45, 4:20, 7:55; Sat, 4:35, 8:05; Sun-Thu (1/26), 12:45, 4:20, 7:55
Haywire (digital): Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:35
The Iron Lady (digital): Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15
Joyful Noise (digital): 12:50, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00
Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (digital): 12:30, 3:35, 6:40, 9:55
Red Tails (digital): 12:40, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (digital): 4:00, 7:15, 10:15
Underworld: Awakening (3-D): Fri-Sun, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:25; Mon-Thu (1/26), 4:25, 6:55, 9:25
Underworld: Awakening (digital): Fri-Sun, 11:25am; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:55pm
War Horse (digital): 9:40pm
We Bought a Zoo (digital): 12:25, 3:30, 6:30

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2120 N. Mays, Round Rock, 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.
Happy Feet Two: Fri, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00pm
Happy Feet Two (3-D): Fri, 2:45, 5:15; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:45, 5:15; Mon-Thu (1/26), 2:45, 5:15
Immortals: Fri, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35
Immortals (3-D): Fri-Sat, 8:15, 11:15; Sun-Thu (1/26), 8:15pm
In Time: 3:45, 10:10

Jack and Jill: Fri, 2:15, 4:50, 7:45, 10:05, 11:55; Sat, 11:30am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:45, 10:05, 11:55pm; Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:45,

10:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 2:15, 4:50, 7:45, 10:05
Puss in Boots: Fri, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15; Mon-Thu (1/26), 3:30, 6:30, 9:15
Puss in Boots (3-D): Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 2:30, 5:00, 8:00
Real Steel: Fri, 7:20, 11:30; Sat, 12:45, 7:20, 11:30; Sun, 12:45, 7:20; Mon-Thu (1/26), 7:20pm
Tower Heist: Fri, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45, 11:55; Sat, 11:55am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45, 11:55pm; Sun, 11:55am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45
A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (3-D): 10:15pm

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, Round Rock, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
The Adventures of Tintin (3-D): Fri, 1:05, 3:45; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:05, 3:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:05, 3:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital): Fri, 1:15, 3:50; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:15, 3:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:15, 3:50
Beauty and the Beast (3-D): Fri, 1:25, 3:05, 5:25, 6:40, 7:45, 9:15, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:25am, 1:05, 12:45, 1:25, 3:05, 5:25, 6:40, 7:45, 9:15, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:25, 3:05, 5:25, 6:40, 7:45, 9:15, 10:10
Beauty and the Beast (digital): 4:00pm
Contraband (digital): Fri, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15
The Devil Inside (digital): 6:30, 9:00
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (digital): Fri, 12:55, 4:10, 7:10, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 12:55, 4:10, 7:10, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 12:55, 4:10, 7:10, 10:05
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (digital): 6:20, 9:45
Haywire (digital): Fri, 1:45, 4:05, 7:00, 9:35; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:45, 4:05, 7:00, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:45, 4:05, 7:00, 9:35
Joyful Noise (digital): Fri, 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (digital): Fri, 12:00, 4:20, 7:25, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:25, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:20, 4:20, 7:25, 10:25
Red Tails (digital): Fri, 1:00, 3:55, 7:30, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 1:00, 3:55, 7:30, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:00, 3:55, 7:30, 10:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (digital): Fri, 1:30, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 10:35am, 1:30, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:30, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30
Underworld: Awakening (3-D): Fri, 1:40, 4:15, 6:35, 7:05, 9:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 1:40, 4:15, 6:35, 7:05, 9:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:40, 4:15, 6:35, 7:05, 9:20, 9:50
Underworld: Awakening (digital): Fri, 2:35, 4:50; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 12:20, 2:35, 4:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 2:35, 4:50
War Horse (digital): 1:10, 7:20
We Bought a Zoo (digital): Fri, 4:25, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 4:25, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 4:25, 10:35

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital): Fri, 12:50, 3:15, 5:30; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 12:50, 3:15, 5:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 12:50, 3:15, 5:30
Beauty and the Beast (3-D): Fri, 1:35, 2:50, 4:00, 5:20, 6:30, 7:40, 8:55, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 12:25, 1:35, 2:50, 4:00, 5:20, 6:30, 7:40, 8:55, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/26), 1:35, 2:50, 4:00, 5:20, 6:30, 7:40, 8:55, 10:00
Beauty and the Beast (digital): Fri, 12

in favor of his family. Directed by Baltasar Kormákur, the star of the original Icelandic version of the film, *Contraband* is transposed to New Orleans. Wahlberg plays Chris Farraday, who is pulled back into the life after the brother (Jones) of his wife (Beckinsale) screws up big time with local drug dealer Tim Briggs (Ribisi). When Farraday's wife and kids are threatened, the reformed criminal returns to the fray in order to protect them. *Contraband* is a tidy little thriller that makes up in execution what it lacks in originality. (01/13/2012)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Ritz, Alamo Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ A DANGEROUS METHOD

D: David Cronenberg; with Keira Knightley, Michael Fassbender, Viggo Mortensen, Vincent Cassel, Sarah Gadon. (R, 99 min.)

Canadian filmmaker David Cronenberg's period piece about the origins of psychoanalysis and the sexual confusions of its progenitors is eloquent and handsomely made, if never quite revelatory. The film opens with a Russian émigré named Sabina (Knightley) in howling, seizing distress, being taken against her will to a Zurich psychiatric hospital. She doesn't know it yet, but her life will in large part be defined by her shuttling between Zurich, the home of Carl Jung (Fassbender), her doctor and eventual lover, and Vienna, the home of Sigmund Freud (Mortensen), who once thought of Jung as his "son and heir." Sabina's influence loosens Jung from the rigors of Freud's strictly scientific method and nudges him toward a more speculative approach – the film positions her squarely at the center of Jung and Freud's famous break. It's a very particular film, one that takes some getting used to, but I was rather taken with it. (12/23/2011)

★★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Arbor

THE DARKEST HOUR

D: Chris Gorak; with Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, Rachael Taylor, Max Minghella, Joel Kinnaman, Veronika Ozerova, Dato Bakhtadze. (PG-13, 89 min.)

The Darkest Hour is an alien-invasion film set in Moscow and produced by the same team that gave us the infinitely superior Russian horror fantasies *Night Watch* and *Day Watch*. Saddled with a truly weak script from Jon Spaihts, the story involves invisible aliens who feed on electricity and kill off humanity by turning them to ash via unimpressive, whiplike CGI weaponry. Populated by a pair of entrepreneurial Yanks (Hirsch and Minghella) on the loose in Moscow and their female counterparts/squeezes (Thirlby and Taylor), the film opens with a blackout – of power, information, and any idea what exactly is going on. That brief flicker of suspense in an otherwise suspense-free film quickly evaporates into a fairly standard alien-invasion plot that moves from Point A (What the hell are these things?) to Point B (How the hell do we stop them and save the world?) with nary an overused, expository cliché untapped. (12/30/2011)

★ – Marc Savlov
Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE DESCENDANTS

D: Alexander Payne; with George Clooney, Shailene Woodley, Nick Krause, Amara Miller, Judy Greer, Beau Bridges, Robert Forster, Matthew Lillard, Mary Birdsong, Rob Huebel. (R, 115 min.)

Did anyone ever look less Hawaiian than the dapper and poised George Clooney? It serves his *Descendants* character Matt King well. Those constitutionally ill-fitting, loud prints and pleated shorts and boat shoes embody how out of touch Matt has become as a husband and a father to 10-year-old Scottie (Miller) and 17-year-old Alex (Woodley). Voiceover opens the film and pops up occasionally, sometimes to describe the depths of the family's dysfunction. However, what we're told and what we're shown by director and co-writer Alexander Payne (*Sideways*, *About Schmidt*) don't always square: The girls seem more precociously rebellious than tyrannical, and Matt, who is publicly roasted for his failures as a family man, is never seen as anything less than a competent and loving caretaker. *The Descendants* is beautifully shot (by Phedon Papamichael) and compellingly performed, especially by its young stars, and it has moments of startling tenderness. If only it didn't feel phony to its bones. (11/25/2011)

★★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown North, Violet Crown


THE DEVIL INSIDE

D: William Brent Bell; with Suzan Crowley, Fernanda Andrade, Simon Quarterman, Evan Helmuth, Bonnie Morgan. (R, 87 min.)

The Devil Inside offers proof that demons run rampant in Hollywood, possessing otherwise intelligent and creative people to make absolutely shitty "gotcha!" mocku-monstrosities like this one. Another faux found-footage film in the weak tradition of *Paranormal Activity*, *The Devil Inside* trades suburban creepiness for exorcisms gone wrong, Roman Catholic pageantry, and some extremely memorable and spine-wracking writhing courtesy of UK contortionist Pixie Le Knot. Andrade is Isabella Rossi, a tormented wraith of a woman whose mother (Crowley) went on a murderous, decidedly anti-Catholic rampage (possibly via demonic possession) when Isabella was a child. Twenty years later, with camera crew in tow, Isabella heads off to Italy to see her mother. Recruiting a pair of exorcists (Quarterman and Helmuth), Isabella does everything seasoned horror fans have come to expect, but with none of the panache. Chaos ensues, as does one of the most wrong-headed endings in horror film history. Now that's just evil. (01/13/2012)

★ – Marc Savlov
CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

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Man on a Mission: Richard Garriott's Road to the Stars

8 MURDERS A DAY

D: Charlie Minn. (NR, 90 min.)

The title comes from the average number of homicides that result from the ongoing drug-related violence just south of the U.S. border, and documentary filmmaker Minn’s sense of personal outrage is well-justified. It’s a mystery to no one why the drug cartels appear to be gaining the upper hand in Mexico. Corruption has gone viral throughout every capillary of the Mexican government, police, and army. None of this is particularly fresh news, but with the situation escalating daily and Mexican elections coming up, Minn’s document of a quickly crumbling society couldn’t be more timely. The endless parade of ghastly images, however, does not drive home the film’s point – it only forces the viewer to brace for the next atrocity. That caveat aside, *8 Murders a Day* is resolute in its righteous condemnation of both Calderón’s misguided attempts to quell the unfolding horrors and the United States’ equal measure of folly. (01/13/2012)

★★★ – Marc Savlov

Metropolitan

Bananas

D: Woody Allen; with Allen, Louise Lasser. (1971, PG-13, 82 min.) One of Allen’s earliest films and still one of his funniest, this comedy features Allen as Fielding Mellish, a schnook who winds up in the middle of a Latin American revolution. (Double feature: *Love and Death*.) @Paramount, Tuesday, 7; Wednesday, 8:55pm.



THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

D: David Fincher; with Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Christopher Plummer, Robin Wright, Stellan Skarsgård, Steven Berkoff, Tony Way, Joely Richardson, Geraldine James. (R, 158 min.)

Rooney Mara nails it, completely. That was the big question regarding David Fincher’s (slightly) Americanized adaptation of Stieg Larsson’s sensational Millennium trilogy, originally adapted for the Swedish screen in 2009. This second incarnation of Lisbeth Salander – punk-rock privateer, hacker-sleuth, damaged goods – is every bit as unnerving and hypnotic. Sometimes even more so. The screenplay includes a handful of deviations from the Swedish version, but the main thing that establishes this as the superior film is Fincher’s exacting directorial aesthetic. Investigating the decades-old murder of the favorite niece of industrialist Henrik Vanger (Plummer), Daniel Craig’s damaged journalist crusader Mikael Blomkvist prowls around the snowbound Vanger estate, as bad things – and bodies – begin to pile up. What transfixes here isn’t the labyrinthine plotting but Mara’s Lisbeth. It’s a knockout sucker punch of a performance. Mara’s doomy gaze cuts through the hype and bores straight into your soul. (12/23/2011)

★★★★ – Marc Savlov

Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Lamar, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, iPic, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

HUGO

D: Martin Scorsese; with Asa Butterfield, Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Chloë Grace Moretz, Helen McCrory, Emily Mortimer, Christopher Lee, Ray Winstone, Michael Stuhlbarg, Jude Law, Richard Griffiths. (PG, 126 min.)

Scorsese steps outside his usual comfort zone here and winds up creating one of the most splendid and personal films of his career. A visual and technological stunner, *Hugo* manages to wrap an emotionally involving story about an orphaned boy in 1930s Paris around a passionate appeal for the practice of film preservation. In the process, Scorsese also schools other filmmakers and viewers in the use of 3-D as a potential enhancement to the art of storytelling rather than its contemporary bastardization as a requisite gewgaw. *Hugo* is perhaps not a story for the youngest

of children but should work just fine for older kids, adolescents, and grown-ups. Robert Richardson’s cinematography is most impressive. In fact, Scorsese’s entire crew functions at the top of its game here. Although a nip and a tuck might improve the film’s overall pace, there is no denying that this love letter to the movies is something to cherish. (11/25/2011)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten

Alamo Village, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

IN TIME

D: Andrew Niccol; with Amanda Seyfried, Justin Timberlake, Alex Pettyfer, Cillian Murphy, Olivia Wilde. (PG-13, 109 min.)

In Time shares similar DNA with writer/director Andrew Niccol’s 1997 debut, *Gattaca*, as both dabble in a seemingly refined future that’s dystopian for the have-nots, but *In Time* is a far chintzier production. The concept is that in the near future, time has become the most precious commodity. To combat overcrowding, all humans stop aging at 25 and their clocks start counting down. Wages are paid with added time to one’s lifespan, while rent and bread money are subtracted, so the rich stockpile centuries and the poor drop dead in the street. There’s concept, and then there’s execution, and Niccol’s cornball double entendres about time imbue the film with a hokeyness it never recovers from. Casting Justin Timberlake and Amanda Seyfried can only go so far to counteract the film’s fundamental unhappiness. They have some fun as class warriors on the lam, but it’s all just big-budget dress-up in a futurescape that reeks of phoniness. (11/04/2011)

★ – Kimberley Jones

Movies 8

THE IRON LADY

D: Phyllida Lloyd; with Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent, Olivia Colman, Alexandra Roach, Harry Lloyd, Nicholas Farrell, Anthony Head, Richard E. Grant. (PG-13, 105 min.)

The Iron Lady, an impressionistic biopic of Margaret Thatcher, turns the former prime minister’s reported dementia into a springboard for abstract touchdowns into her timeline. We see her early days as the daughter of a hard-working Lincolnshire grocer; as a young woman (Roach), fresh from Oxford and trying to break into politics; squired by a perpetually bemused Denis (Lloyd), whom she eventually marries; and, finally, ascension to a Conservative seat in Parliament, with her career culminating in her historic premiership. Toothsome material, to be sure, but *The Iron Lady*, as directed by *Mamma Mia!*’s Phyllida Lloyd, has all the heft of a fictionalized *This Is Your Life*, thick with rah-rah bromides and talk of (egads!) Thatcher’s feelings. The film still entertains, but that has everything to do with Meryl Streep’s dynamic incarnation of Thatcher from middle age on. If I may presume: Thatcher probably would have preferred more action, less talk. (01/13/2012)

★★★ – Kimberley Jones

Alamo Lamar, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, iPic, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Violet Crown, Westgate

JOYFUL NOISE

D: Todd Graff; with Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton, Keke Palmer, Jeremy Jordan, Dexter Darden, Courtney B. Vance, Jesse L. Martin, Angela Grovey, Paul Woolfolk, Kris Kristofferson. (PG-13, 117 min.)

Even though it sports a queen and a dolly, writer/director Todd Graff’s come-from-behind, gospel-music competition film is utterly common. A perpetual runner-up in the national competition, the interracial Sacred Divinity Choir of Pacashau, Ga., seeks to take home the trophy after the abrupt death of its longtime choirmaster Bernard Sparrow (Kristofferson). Pastor Dale (Vance) appoints Vi Rose Hill (Queen Latifah) the new choirmaster, ruffling Bernard’s widow, and rival diva, G.G. (Dolly Parton). The grande dames, however, are largely upstaged by the movie’s younger generation, setting up an ongoing tension between “traditional” choir music and a more contemporary repertoire. *Joyful Noise*, while set in the world of gospel music, soft-pedals religiosity in favor of down-home country aphorisms and expressions. The interracial aspect is a nonfactor, as is any display of real emotional strife of any sort. The film feels about as genuine and spontaneous as its evident lip-synching. (01/13/2012)

★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten

Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

The Enchanted Island

D: Phelim McDermott. (2012, NR, 235 min.)

Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD. Inspired by musical pastiches from the 18th century, the program showcases arias and ensembles by Handel, Vivaldi, Rameau, and others, and a new libretto by Jeremy Sams. Conductor William Christie leads an all-star cast headed by David Daniels, Joyce DiDonato, and Plácido Domingo. @Metropolitan, Arbor, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Hill Country Galleria, CM Cedar Park, Saturday, 11:55am.



MELANCHOLIA

D: Lars von Trier; with Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Kiefer Sutherland, Alexander Skarsgård, Brady Corbet, Charlotte Rampling, John Hurt, Stellan Skarsgård, Udo Kier, Cameron Spurr. (R, 136 min.)

It’s the end of the world, and Lars von Trier knows it. The famously depressed Danish filmmaker brings his vision of human annihilation to the screen in this visually stunning, thematically rich, perversely humorous, and sublimely virtuosic film. Earth faces destruction from collision with a planet named Melancholia, which has only recently been discovered because it’s been hiding behind the sun. The first half of *Melancholia* is devoted to the wedding reception for Justine (Dunst) and Michael (Skarsgård), held at the lavish estate of Justine’s sister Claire (Gainsbourg) and her husband, John (Sutherland). When news reports mount about the impending natural disaster, Claire’s state of mind grows frenzied while Justine declares placidly: “The Earth is evil. We are alone.” Dunst’s performance is a thing of calm beauty and mired grit. If von Trier seemed as though he was at a creative dead end with his last film, *Antichrist*, he has reawakened with this beautiful, haunting disaster film. (11/18/2011)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten

Violet Crown

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – GHOST PROTOCOL

D: Brad Bird; with Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton, Michel Nyqvist, Vladimir Mashkov, Josh Holloway, Anil Kapoor, Léa Seydoux. (PG-13, 133 min.)

Maybe I’m just suffering from sequelitis, but my reaction to this fourth impossible mission was one long existential yawn. An opening prison-break sets the tone (wacky and volatile) for what’s to come. Impossible Mission Force Agent Ethan Hunt (Cruise) is freed from a grim Russian lockup just in time to be corralled into a new, even more impossible mission. Hunt and company are informed of the evil machinations of Kurt Hendricks (Nyqvist), a Bondian villain who’s stolen the codes to a battery of Russian nuclear missiles and is intent on starting World War III. Tasked with penetrating the Kremlin, Hunt gets more than his share of disguises, gizmos, and falls from high places. Director Bird’s vision brings much to the table, but the film’s gee-whiz/oh-fuck gadgetry and stunning vistas left me with the feeling I’ve seen much of this before. It’s not that I’d like something better – I’d just like something new. (12/16/2011)

★★★ – Marc Savlov

Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, IMAX Theatre, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

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★ THE MUPPETS

D: James Bobin; with Amy Adams, Jason Segel, Chris Cooper, Rashida Jones, Zach Galifianakis, Ken Jeong, Sarah Silverman, Feist, Whoopi Goldberg, Selena Gomez. (PG, 98 min.)

It is with immense pleasure that I can report that Disney's Muppet reboot movie is an absolute delight. It hews very closely to the original item, with all the original Muppet characters on board, along with one new one: the small, orange Walter (voiced by Peter Linz) who doesn't, in fact, realize that he's a Muppet. He believes he's the shorter, fuzzier, younger brother of Jason Segel's human Gary. Walter, Gary, and Gary's best gal Mary (Adams, redefining the word "perky") journey to the old Muppet Theater, now a cobwebbed, empty shadow of its former self that's about to be sold. What to do? Why, track down the original *Muppet Show* members, of course, and put on the Great Muppet Telethon. True Muppet maniacs are advised to bring a hankie. The Muppets may have been gone, but it's an absolute joy to have them back. After all, to paraphrase Walt Kelly: We have met the Muppets, and they are us. (11/25/2011)

★★★★ – Marc Savlov
Alamo Lamar, Tinseltown South

MY WEEK WITH MARILYN

D: Simon Curtis; with Michelle Williams, Eddie Redmayne, Kenneth Branagh, Dominic Cooper, Julia Ormond, Emma Watson, Judi Dench, Zoë Wanamaker, Dougray Scott, Toby Jones, Derek Jacobi. (R, 101 min.)

Colin Clark was 23 years old when the most famous movie star in the world, Marilyn Monroe, came to England to co-star with acting legend Sir Laurence Olivier in *The Prince and the Showgirl*, which Olivier was also directing and for which Clark served as third assistant director. When the film shoot turned difficult (and what production starring Monroe didn't?), Clark, if we are to believe his account, became Monroe's confidant and partner in flirtation. The truth of what actually occurred between Monroe and Clark is immaterial. There are only two real reasons to see this movie. The first is the spooky-good impersonation of Monroe by Michelle Williams. No slouch either is Kenneth Branagh in his depiction of Olivier. The second reason to see *My Week With Marilyn* is for its encapsulation of a running controversy about the diametrically opposed approaches of classically trained and method actors. No new ground is broken on the subject, however. (11/25/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

NANBAN

D: S. Shankar; with Vijay, Jeeva, Srikanth, Ileana D'Cruz, Sathyan, Sathyaraj. (NR, 158 min., subtitled)

This Tamil comedy is a remake of the 2009 Bollywood blockbuster *3 Idiots*. (01/13/2012)

– Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

Faust

D: F.W. Murnau; with William Dieterle, Emil Jannings, Gösta Ekman, Camilla Horn. (1926, NR, 116 min.) **Austin Film Society: The Great Escape – Three European Emigré Filmmakers.** God and the devil once again wager for the soul of mankind in this silent classic of German Expressionism that becomes a real visual treat in the hands of Murnau (*Sunrise*). @Alamo Lamar, Tuesday, 7pm.



NEW YEAR'S EVE

D: Garry Marshall; with Halle Berry, Jessica Biel, Jon Bon Jovi, Abigail Breslin, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Robert De Niro, Josh Duhamel, Zac Efron, Hector Elizondo, Katherine Heigl, Ashton Kutcher, Seth Meyers, Lea Michele, Sarah Jessica Parker, Michelle Pfeiffer, Til Schweiger, Hilary Swank, Sofia Vergara. (PG-13, 118 min.)

Director Garry Marshall and screenwriter Katherine Fugate lift in toto the framework of their previous collaboration, *Valentine's Day* – the holiday theme, the puzzle-piece narrative, the overstuffed cast of stars, the colorless execution. On New Year's Eve in New York City, disparate people try to make it a night to remember, angling for a midnight kiss, a mystery rendezvous, a reconciliation with a lost love, or the prize of pushing out the first baby of the new year. Marshall has corralled a considerable share of Oscar-caliber talent here, only to coax frankly embarrassing work from them. There's a difference between pleasant escapism and just plain half-assedness, and *New Year's Eve* – a flimsy fiction to start with – can't even muster the strength of its own convictions. There are blips of charm and genuine sentiment, but mostly *New Year's Eve* is appalling stuff, a poorly constructed, sentimental sham. Auld lang suck. (12/09/2011)

★ – Kimberley Jones
Tinseltown South

★ PARIAH

D: Dee Rees; with Adepero Oduye, Pernell Walker, Aasha Davis, Charles Parnell, Kim Wayans, Sahra Miellesse, Zabryna Guevara. (R, 86 min.)

Pariah encompasses the personal and the universal with its emotionally engaging story about a Brooklyn teenager who struggles to find a place to

fit in and thrive. Writer/director Dee Rees' film is fresh yet familiar, raw but polished, and wholly original. Alike (Oduye) is a black, virginal lesbian, and a budding writer who is unable to find community, solace, or reflections of self in her family, high school classmates, or the denizens of the local lesbian bar. Uncomfortable with the strict butch-and-femme profiles of the club scene, and unable to come out to her doggedly oblivious parents, Alike is as hard to pigeonhole as *Pariah* itself. Yes, it's a coming-of-age film. It's a coming-out film, too, but it breaks that mold by being thoroughly unpredictable. Coming out in *Pariah* is not just a gay thing; it's a process every individual must go through in order to discover an authentic self. (01/13/2012)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Arbor

★ PUSS IN BOOTS

D: Chris Miller; with the voices of Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Zach Galifianakis, Billy Bob Thornton, Amy Sedaris, Constance Marie, Guillermo del Toro. (PG, 90 min.)

This animated spin-off from the *Shrek* trilogy presents the origin story of the green ogre's sidekick, Puss in Boots. DreamWorks' hero's tale is bolstered by solid storytelling and voice work, more deranged fairy-tale mash-ups, and an abundance of feline cuteness. Antonio Banderas' Puss is at once a lover and a fighter, part Zorro and part Pepé Le Pew, and his pairing with Salma Hayek, who provides the voice of Kitty Softpaws, is *muy simpático*. The plot takes us back to Puss' childhood in an orphanage, where he becomes best friends with Humpty Dumpty (Galifianakis), a large egg who tricks the cat into a bank robbery that goes wrong, leaving Puss in exile and Humpty with a chip on his shoulder. There's a lot of chase and rescue to fill out the meager storyline, but the top-notch voice work keeps us attuned to the screen. *Puss in Boots* is cute and entertaining but hardly purr-fect. (10/28/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Movies 8, Tinseltown South

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Where Soldiers Come From

D: Heather Courtney. (2011, NR) **Texas Independent Film Network.** Over four years, Courtney follows four aimless friends who join the National Guard for lack of anything better to do and wind up in a unit shipped to Afghanistan. The story of their return home and reintegration is as sobering as their war experiences. @Violet Crown, Tuesday, 7pm.



REAL STEEL

D: Shawn Levy; with Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo, Evangeline Lilly, Anthony Mackie, Kevin Durand, Hope Davis, James Rebhorn, Olga Fonda, Karl Yune. (PG-13, 127 min.)

Real Steel may have a hardened outer shell, but it's pure marshmallow on the inside. This kids' film mixes the heart of come-from-behind boxing dramas with the geeky gadget gestalt of films like *The Transformers*. Thinly derived from a Richard Matheson short story, *Real Steel* is set in a debased near-future in which robot boxing is all the rage. Charlie Kenton (Jackman) is a former champion boxer who now hustles robot matches. He's a gruff, unlikable guy, and when he's informed of his long-lost son, Max (Goyo), whose mother has just died, Charlie makes self-serving financial arrangements for the boy's care, never guessing he and his son will bond before the summer is through. The film's predictability is a serious drawback, but *Night at the Museum* director Shawn Levy hits all the right notes that should guarantee the film's appeal to young and old joystick junkies who, despite outward appearances, harbor sentimental hearts. (10/07/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Movies 8

SHAME

D: Steve McQueen; with Michael Fassbender, Carey Mulligan, James Badge Dale, Nichole Beharie, Lucy Walters, Elizabeth Masucci, Robert Montano. (NC-17, 99 min.)

All humans have habits, some of them bad. The bad habits of Brandon Sullivan (Fassbender, exhibiting exquisite control and spasming anguish) have curdled into full-bore addiction. The kempt escorts with whom he politely negotiates terms, the workaday masturbation breaks, the foot-fidgeting: This is Brandon's everyday landscape. But soon Brandon's routine is upended by the sudden arrival of his needy, chancy younger sister, Sissy (Carey Mulligan). Where Brandon is ordered and emotionally closed off, Sissy is erratic, fairly lunging at any warm body that might warm her back. Indeterminate damage has been done to them both, and whatever it was, it has steered the course of all future emotional and physical entanglements, including the siblings' own provocative push-pull. Director Steve McQueen has stripped all fat from this dark, obsessively stylized story about sex addiction. Equally harrowing and heartrending, *Shame* is a film that feels akin to going into battle, and I for one didn't emerge unscathed. (12/16/2011)

★★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Arbor

SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS

D: Guy Ritchie; with Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Jared Harris, Noomi Rapace, Rachel McAdams, Kelly Reilly, Stephen Fry, Paul Anderson, Thierry Neuvic, Geraldine James. (PG-13, 128 min.)

Exactly like its titular detective, Guy Ritchie's follow-up to his steampunky 2009 take on Arthur Conan Doyle's peerlessly curious antihero is a gor-

geous shambles. The whole film, which caroms from 1891 London to Paris, Vienna, and the inevitable Reichenbach Falls of Doyle's "The Final Problem," seems to have been subject to a strict diet of caffeine, nicotine, and coca leaves. Although the first half of *A Game of Shadows* is too chaotic for its own good and riddled with a multitude of subplots that appear irrelevant, the film picks up steam (literally) as Holmes (Downey Jr.) and Dr. Watson (Law) home in on their quarry: the inestimable "Napoleon of Crime," Professor Moriarty (Harris). The final 30 minutes of this revisionist Holmes explodathon are downright thrilling, and it should go without saying: Downey Jr. inhabits the role of Sherlock Holmes to a near-molecular level. The end result is a worthy rush of adrenaline. (12/16/2011)

★★★ – Marc Savlov
Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Flix Brewhouse, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE SITTER

D: David Gordon Green; with Jonah Hill, Max Records, Kevin Hernandez, Landry Bender, Sam Rockwell, Ari Graynor, J.B. Smoove, Kylie Bunbury. (R, 82 min.)

I hate to join the chorus of nags, but come on, Gordon Green: Stop dinking around. Green's latest feature exercise in backward-glancing, *The Sitter*, is a nonstarter. It recalls its genre antecedents (think *After Hours* and *Adventures in Babysitting*) in concept – here, Jonah Hill plays a reluctant babysitter lugging three kids in a minivan through Brooklyn while dodging a sully drug dealer (Sam Rockwell) – but never gets at the same itchy spirit of anarchy. There's real energy to the way Green captures the nighttime cityscapes, but the film's set-pieces are static, built on predictable bits of cocaine explosions and kids mouthing off like minigangstas. I liked Hill's mellow-keyed delivery, and the emotional scenes are quite delicately played. I admit to about a half-dozen moments of high-pitched "heh!" – sort of a duck-honk approximation of amusement, I guess – but for a comedy, *The Sitter* is frightfully spare on full-bodied laughs. (12/16/2011)

★★ – Kimberley Jones
Metropolitan

TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY

D: Tomas Alfredson; with Gary Oldman, Benedict Cumberbatch, Colin Firth, Mark Strong, Tom Hardy, Toby Jones, John Hurt, Ciarán Hinds, Stephen Graham, Simon McBurney, David Dencik, Svetlana Khodchenkova, Kathy Burke. (R, 127 min.)

The modern movie spy has become defined by so much running and rappelling and cool seducing that it feels like a luxury to nestle in with the staid and resolutely unsuave George Smiley (Gary Oldman). The character created by John le Carré is a longtime operative in Her Majesty's Secret Intelligence Service. Smiley is forced into early retirement at the film's outset, but ministry officials soon drag him back into the fray to investigate rumors of a Soviet mole burrowed deep in the SIS; the title, taken from a British nursery rhyme, is the shorthand for the suspect list devised by Smiley's former mentor, the cryptically named Control (Hurt). What a delectably tense-making game of Whac-a-Mole it all turns out to be. Where Alfredson's *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* bobbles is on the plotting level. One wishes for a chewier whodunit – there aren't enough clues for the viewer to work with – and the reveal of the mole is perversely anticlimactic. (12/23/2011)

★★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Alamo Lamar, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South, Violet Crown

TOWER HEIST

D: Brett Ratner; with Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy, Casey Affleck, Alan Alda, Matthew Broderick, Téa Leoni, Michael Peña, Gabourey Sidibe, Judd Hirsch, Stephen Henderson. (PG-13, 105 min.)

Alert to the righteous rage of the 99 Percenters and canny about how to mine that rage for laughs, *Tower Heist* is like *Ocean's Eleven* meets class consciousness. Ben Stiller plays Josh Kovacs, the manager of a luxury condo in Manhattan called the Tower, where he commands a small army of housekeepers, concierges, and security guards. When the Tower's penthouse-dwelling big-shot investor Arthur Shaw (Alda) is taken into federal custody for some funny business with the books, his entire staff's pension plans are gone, and the people-pleasing building manager wants revenge. Going rogue, Josh gathers a motley crew – including Eddie Murphy's ex-con

The Weather Underground

(2003) D: Sam Green and Bill Siegel. (2003, NR, 92 min.) **Cinema41.** Former members of the Weather Underground still know a thing or two about "which way the wind blows" in this always timely documentary. (*) @Salvage Vanguard Theater, Thursday, 8pm.



Slide – to filch the \$20 million Shaw has hidden in his penthouse. A constitutionally glib director, Brett Ratner is nevertheless a professional: He's made a lean and likable action comedy that motors along at a satisfying clip. *Tower Heist* nails the humor, all right, but also, quite crucially, humanizes the high concept. (11/04/2011)

★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Movies 8

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1

D: Bill Condon; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Billy Burke, Peter Facinelli, Ashley Greene, Nikki Reed. (PG-13, 117 min.)

Alas, this is more or less the same movie we've been seeing all along: Bella (Stewart) wants sex; Edward (Pattinson) won't even heavy pet. Even after the wedding that opens this fourth adaptation of Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* books, the topic of "will they or won't they" is still on the table. While on honeymoon, their first attempt results in Edward splintering the bed and accidentally roughing up Bella. (When she reassures him she's fine and knows he didn't mean to bruise her, it creepily whiffs of battered-wife syndrome.) So Edward swears off all carnal pleasures; wouldn't she rather play another game of chess instead? With this film, the *Twilight* series officially makes the transition from essentially harmless Victorian-minded trash to something flatly pernicious. And boring, to boot. The filmmakers decided to break the fourth and final book of Meyer's series into two parts, ostensibly to accommodate its surfeit of action. They must be saving all that for *Part 2*. (11/25/2011)

★ – Kimberley Jones
Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS

D: Todd Strauss-Schulson; with Kal Penn, John Cho, Neil Patrick Harris, Thomas Lennon, Danny Trejo, Paula Garcés, Elias Koteas. (R, 89 min.)

This is the first of the three Harold and Kumar titles in which the weed-loving pair aren't actively coming or going, and it shows. A grinning but toothless comedy, this Christmas-themed outing pales in inventiveness compared to the original. Ah well. We've all gotten a little older, haven't we? Hell, Harold (Cho) doesn't even smoke pot anymore. Married and settled in the suburbs, he wants to give his wife, Maria (Garcés), and her clan (including Trejo's gruff Papi) the perfect Christmas. That plan goes up in smoke when the tree is accidentally torched during a visit by Harold's estranged best friend, Kumar (Penn), thus setting into motion a quest picture with an ingenuity deficit. It gets a pretty good buzz going with a kicky Claymation nightmarescape, Cho and Penn's genial rapport, and the picturesque three-dimensioning of plumes of pot smoke. But those pleasures are fleeting – gone, if you will, with the weed. (11/11/2011)

★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Movies 8

WAR HORSE

D: Steven Spielberg; with Jeremy Irvine, Peter Mullan, Emily Watson, Niels Arestrup, David Thewlis, Benedict Cumberbatch. (PG-13, 146 min.)

War Horse is spectacularly gorgeous to look at but skimps on dramatic pull. Based on a popular 1982 novel by Michael Morpurgo, Spielberg's *War Horse* affords young viewers the opportunity to see the First World War through the perspective of Joey the horse. Raised on an English farm, Joey is sold into war in 1914 and has many a harrowing experience on the Western front. A horse is a horse (of course, of course), and it might be said that the folly of *War Horse* is its expectation of emotional resonance to derive from a fairly expressionless equine visage. The film's visual style is a throwback to classic studio movies: epic in composition and drenched in widescreen vistas. The battle scenes, despite being bloodless, are powerfully wrenching and a keen reminder of what Spielberg is capable of. But the overlong *War Horse* mostly passes as though the director were in absentia. (12/23/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

WE BOUGHT A ZOO

D: Cameron Crowe; with Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson, Thomas Haden Church, Colin Ford, Maggie Elizabeth Jones, Angus Macfadyen, Elle Fanning, Patrick Fugit, John Michael Higgins. (PG, 124 min.)

Animals, griever, a makeshift community of oddballs, the possibility of romance: Cameron Crowe's new film has it all. Its universal appeal and PG rating should make it a go-to film for family outings, but *We Bought a Zoo* is plagued by an overall lack of bite. Based on journalist Benjamin Mee's autobiography, the story begins six months after the death of his wife as Mee struggles with being a single parent of two young children and a newsroom desk jockey. So he quits his job and moves the kids to the countryside. The home Mee buys is on property that houses a closed, ramshackle zoo that's maintained by workaholic zookeeper Kelly Foster (Johansson). Inevitable flare-ups occur regarding the children's acclimation, unexpected expenses, and Mee's grieving. Though by trying too hard to stay on this side of hip and the other side of sentimental, Crowe winds up with a zoo that's neither fish nor fowl. (12/23/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North

YOUNG ADULT

D: Jason Reitman; with Charlize Theron, Patton Oswalt, Patrick Wilson, Elizabeth Reaser, Collette Wolfe, Jill Eikenberry, Richard Bekins. (R, 94 min.)

Thirty-seven-year-old Mavis Gary (Theron) is a beautiful, unhappy, and unlikable narcissist. Mavis' uncommon abrasiveness and the film's avoidance of a tidy resolution make *Young Adult* one of the most original movies around right now, though caveat emptor: This may not be enough to make it likable. Mavis is a pseudonymous author of a young-adult book series that is about to fold. In her mind, she is a famous author in the big city whose life would be the envy of anyone from her hick hometown, where she was the reigning bitch goddess. Soon she is off on what is clearly a fool's mission to return there and reignite things with her high school boyfriend, Buddy Slade (Wilson), who has just sent her an announcement about the arrival of his first baby. *Young Adult* can be harsh to watch at times, but the film maintains a comic edge, and its character portraits are indelible. (12/16/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Arbor, Tinseltown South

also playing

Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com.

HAPPY FEET TWO

★★ Movies 8

IMMORTALS

★½ Movies 8

JACK AND JILL

½ Movies 8

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

THURSDAY 19

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along (2004) *D: Adam McKay; with Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate, Paul Rudd, Steve Carell. (PG-13, 91 min.)* **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

The Big Lebowski Quote-Along (1998) *(R, 117 min.)* **Action Pack.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm.

Last Call (1991) *D: Jag Mundhra; with Shannon Tweed, William Katt. (R, 90 min.)* **Skinemax.** @Alamo Ritz, 10:45pm.

“Under Pressure” Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

🌀 **Vertigo (1958)** *D: Alfred Hitchcock; with James Stewart, Kim Novak, Barbara Bel Geddes. (PG, 130 min.)* **Big Screen Classics.** One of the thrill master's most psychologically dense and twisted films, in which obsession, commitment, and dual identities merge to create a voluptuous tale of thwarted love. (*) @Alamo Village, 7pm.

SPACES

American Splendor (2003) *D: Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini; with Paul Giamatti. (R, 101 min.)* **Bio (Tragi) Coms.** Free. (*) @Fricano's Deli, West Campus, 7pm.

FRIDAY 20

🌀 **Alien: The Director's Cut (2003)** *D: Ridley Scott; with Tom Skerritt, Sigourney Weaver, Veronica Cartwright, Harry Dean Stanton, John Hurt, Ian Holm, Yaphet Kotto. (R, 116 min.)* **Alien.** The modern horror story meets the space opera in this outstanding film that launched a small franchise. Weaver quickly rose to the top of everyone's hit parade for her characterization of the tough-as-nails Ripley, and Scott's visual pizzazz (with the help of H.R. Giger) upped the ante for movie images of visceral horror. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 11:45pm.

Back to the Future (1985) *(PG, 111 min.)* **Master Pancake.** One of the most beloved comedies of the Eighties gets the Pancake treatment – sans syrup. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

🌀 **Deep Red (1975)** *D: Dario Argento; with David Hemmings, Daria Nicolodi. (R, 98 min.)* **Exploision.** One of this Italian horror master's very best works, *Deep Red* features *Blow-Up*'s Hemmings as a jazz pianist in Rome, who is suspected of having committed a murder before becoming a target himself. Argento's florid camerawork and spooky Gremlin music are in ample evidence here. @Alamo Village, 11:30pm.

SPACES

Escape From New York and Brazil Double feature. @Blue Starlite Mini Urban Drive-In II, 7pm.

Molière (2007) *D: Laurent Tirard; with Romain Duris, Fabrice Luchini, Laura Morante, Edouard Baer, Ludivine Sagnier, Fanny Valette, Mélanie Dos Santos, Gonzague Quignault. (PG-13, 120 min.)* This French farce about the famous playwright is free for Freestyle Language Center students; recommended \$3 donation for everyone else. (*) @Freestyle Language Center, 7pm.

🌀 **Sprouts Film Night Actual Lives Austin and VSA Texas.** The movies in this program for people with developmental disabilities include “King of Camp” (41 min.) and “How's Your News” (27 min.), featuring the news crew on the 2004 presidential campaign trail. @AGE Building, multipurpose room, 6:30pm.

Un Cuento Chino (Chinese Take-Away) (2011) *D: Sebastián Borensztein; with Sebastián Borensztein. (NR, 93 min.)* **Noche de Película.** Argentine comedy. @EsquinaTango, 8:30pm.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Feb. 6 issue is Monday, Jan. 23.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or email.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

SATURDAY 21

🌀 **Alien: The Director's Cut (2003)** **Alien.** @Alamo Ritz, 11:30pm. (See Friday.)

Back to the Future (1985) **Master Pancake.** @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10pm. (See Friday.)

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (2009) *D: Phil Lord, Chris Miller; with the voices of Bill Hader, Anna Faris. (PG, 90 min.)* **Zilker Elementary Gets Schooled.** School fundraiser. (*) @Alamo Lamar, 11am.

The Enchanted Island (2012) See p.56.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) *(R, 95 min.)* Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the “Time Warp” thing live for more than three decades. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Village, 12mid.

SPACES

Goldfinger and On Her Majesty's Secret Service **James Bond.** Double feature. @Blue Starlite Mini Urban Drive-In II, 7pm.

The Smurfs (2011) *D: Raja Gosnell; with Hank Azaria, Neil Patrick Harris. (PG, 86 min.)* **Austin Public Library: Family Matinee.** Free. (*) @Southeast Austin Community Branch Library, 1pm.

SUNDAY 22

🌀 **Alien: The Director's Cut (2003)** **Alien.** @Alamo Ritz, 10pm. (See Friday.)

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along (2004) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm. (See Thursday, 1/19.)

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy (2004) *D: Adam McKay; with Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate, Paul Rudd, Steven Carell. (PG-13, 91 min.)* Will Ferrell is Ron Burgundy, a TV anchorman in 1970s San Diego who uses his station's top-ranked status to maintain the sexual status quo. (Double feature: *Step Brothers*.) (*) @Paramount, 2, 6pm.

Choose Your Own Master Pancake Master Pancake Theater. Bring a DVD of your choice to the show, the audience will select a favorite entry, and Master Pancake will do an instant mockery. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

🌀 **Dreadnaught (1981)** *D: Yuen Woo-ping; with Yuen Biao, Leung Ka-yan, Kwan Tak-hing, Yuen Cheung-yan. (NR, 91 min.)* **Asian Invasion.** Kung-fu choreography maestro Yuen Woo-ping (*The Matrix*; *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*) directs this film about a psychopathic killer. See “A Watery Grave Narrowly Avoided,” p.37. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

Step Brothers (2008) *D: Adam McKay; with Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly, Mary Steenburgen, Richard Jenkins. (R, 100 min.)* Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly are aimless 40-year-olds who live with their parents and become reluctant stepbrothers forced to share a bedroom when their parent gets married. (Double feature: *Anchorman: The Story of Ron Burgundy*.) (*) @Paramount, 4pm.

SPACES

🌀 **On the Edge: Improvisation in Music, Part 3 (1992)** *D: Jeremy Marre; narrated by Derek Bailey. (NR, 55 min.)* Written and narrated by Derek Bailey, this four-part television series for the BBC is based on Bailey's book about improvisation. Part 3 concentrates on jazz-based and free improvisation. Live music follows at 6:15pm. @Skinny's Ballroom, 5pm.

MONDAY 23

🌀 **ACL Reel Rareities: Leonard Cohen Music Monday.** From the Austin City Limits archives comes this presentation of a 1988 show by Leonard Cohen. All proceeds benefit HAAM. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

🌀 **Alien: The Director's Cut (2003)** **Alien.** @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm. (See Friday.)

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy (2004) @Paramount, 9:10pm. (See Sunday.)

The Big Lebowski Quote-Along (1998) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Lamar, 10:15pm. (See Thursday, 1/19.)

🌀 **Rear Window (1954)** *D: Alfred Hitchcock; with James Stewart, Grace Kelly, Thelma Ritter, Raymond Burr. (PG, 114 min.)* **Big Screen Classics.** One of Hitchcock's most accessible films is also one of his most gleefully deviant, dealing as it does with such fun urban pastimes as voyeurism and spousal mayhem. (*) @Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm.

Step Brothers (2008) @Paramount, 7pm. (See Sunday.)

TUESDAY 24

🌀 **Bananas (1971)** See p.56.

🌀 **Faust (1926)** See p.37.

Glee TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Village, 9:45pm.

🌀 **Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer (1986)** *D: John McNaughton; with Michael Rooker. (NR, 83 min.)* **Terror Tuesday.** This terrifying movie is based on the life of serial killer Henry Lee Lucas. So skillful is the performance by Michael Rooker and the shooting technique by director John McNaughton that it's hard to know whether to praise it or flee the theatre. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

🌀 **Love and Death (1975)** *D: Woody Allen; with Allen, Diane Keaton. (PG, 85 min.)* Allen sealed his reputation as an intellectual comic and neurotic with this comedy in which he plays a soldier in czarist Russia who plots with his cousin to assassinate Napoleon. (Double feature: *Bananas*.) @Paramount, 8:55pm.

🌀 **Rear Window (1954)** **Big Screen Classics.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm. (See Monday.)

Sixteen Candles (1984) *D: John Hughes; with Molly Ringwald. (PG, 93 min.)* **Girlie Night.** In *Sixteen Candles*, John Hughes nails just about every aspect of the teenage experience. Plus, Ringwald is radiant as the eternal teen looking for love. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

🌀 **Where Soldiers Come From (2011)** See p.58.

WEDNESDAY 25

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along (2004) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Village, 7pm. (See Thursday, 1/19.)

🌀 **Bananas (1971)** See p.56.

Hook (1991) *D: Steven Spielberg; with Dustin Hoffman, Robin Williams, Julia Roberts. (PG, 144 min.)* **Food & Film: Mini Feast.** See www.drafthouse.com for menu. (*) @Alamo Lamar, 7pm.

🌀 **Liza With a Z (1972)** *D: Bob Fosse. Celluloid Handbag.* Restored in 2006, this hour-long television concert film from 1972 features Liza Minnelli at the height of her *Cabaret* fame. Rebecca Havemayer hosts. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

🌀 **Love and Death (1975)** @Paramount, 7pm. (See Tuesday.)

Messiah of Evil (1973) *D: Willard Huyck and Gloria Katz; with Michael Greer, Marianna Hill, Joy Bang, Anitra Ford, Elisha Cook Jr. (R, 90 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** Also known as *Dead People*, this is a dandy zombie horror film. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

🌀 **Rear Window (1954)** **Big Screen Classics.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm. (See Monday.)

THURSDAY 26

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along (2004) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm. (See Thursday, 1/19.)

🌀 **Beverly Hills Cop (1984)** *D: Martin Brest; with Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold. (R, 105 min.)* This action-comedy vehicle presents Murphy at his very best. (Double feature: *Office Space*.) @Paramount, 9pm.

Love Bites: The Power Ballad Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 10:10pm.

Moulin Rouge Sing-Along (2001) *D: Baz Luhrmann; with Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor. (PG-13, 127 min.)* **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

🌀 **Office Space (1999)** *D: Mike Judge; Ron Livingston, Jennifer Aniston. (R, 89 min.)* White-collar prisoners of the corporate office place will recognize themselves in this very funny, Austin-lensed movie. (Double feature: *Beverly Hills Cop*.) (*) @Paramount, 7pm.

🌀 **Rear Window (1954)** **Big Screen Classics.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm. (See Monday.)

SPACES

Man on the Moon (1999) *D: Milos Forman; with Jim Carrey. (R, 118 min.)* A short film by Andy Kaufman will also screen. (*) @Fricano's Deli, West Campus, 7pm; free.

🌀 **The Weather Underground (2003)** See p.58.

IMAX

Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (2011) *D: Brad Bird; with Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton, Michel Nyqvist, Vladimir Mashkov, Josh Holloway, Anil Kapoor, Léa Seydoux. (PG-13, 133 min.)* See review on p.56. (*). Thu. (1/19) 2:30, 5:30, 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7, 9:45pm; Sun., 4:30, 7:15pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/26), 5:30, 8:15pm.

Ocean Wonderland (2003) *D: Jean-Jacques Mantello. (NR, 41 min.)* Underwater 3-D digital cinematography captures diving expeditions in the Bahamas and the Great Barrier Reef. Thu. (1/19), 10:30am, 12:30pm; Fri.-Sat., 10:30am, 12:30, 3:30, 5:30pm; Sun., 12:30, 3:30pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/26), 10:30am, 12:30, 3:30pm.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) *D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.)* Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of producing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (1/19), 9:30am; Fri.-Sat., 9:30am, 2:30pm; Sun., 2:30pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/26), 9:30am, 2:30pm.

Tornado Alley (2011) *D: Sean C. Casey. (NR, 43 min.)* *Storm Chasers* star Casey joins the researchers of VORTEX 2 in this effort to capture the origins and evolution of tornadoes in 3-D. Thu. (1/19), 11:30am, 1:30pm; Fri.-Sat., 11:30am, 1:30, 4:30pm; Sun., 1:30pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/26), 11:30am, 1:30, 4:30pm.

OFFSCREEN

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Cine Las Americas: Call for Entries The Cine Las Americas International Film Festival is accepting submissions for its 15th annual incarnation in the ATX this coming April. It's looking for films made by or about Latinos in the U.S. or the rest of the world and films by or about indigenous groups of the Americas. See website for details. *Deadline: Jan. 30.* www.cinelasamericas.org.

Hill Country Film Festival Accepting Submissions The three-day independent film event held in Fredericksburg is now accepting submissions for its third annual festival in April 2012. Indie filmmakers from around the world can submit features, shorts, documentaries, animations, music videos, and 3-D shorts. See website for details. *Deadline: Feb. 2.* www.hillcountryff.com.

iPic Members Film Festival: Call For Entries You, filmmaker. You want to make a six-minute movie based on the theme “Earth preservation” and maybe have it screened at the local iPic Theater, and even *all* national iPic Theaters? Then check the website for details and *get started*, yo! *Deadline: Feb. 10.* www.ipictheaters.com.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super 35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a break room suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.



Graveyard

If, say, a Scottish pop or instrumental act rolls through Austin, locals take note. Musicians as a global resource instruct us through cultural

diversity. Metal bands from far-flung locales barely get a second look.

Lucky for the live music capital that Swedish psych-blues turbine Graveyard made a connection here with its 2008 eponymous debut. South by Southwest and two return trips that year enlightened us natives to the Gothenburg quartet's feral channeling of 1960s proto-metal institutions Iron Butterfly and Blue Cheer. Not to be outdone, 2011's *Hisingen Blues* (Nuclear Blast) sidestepped the sophomore disappearing act and found comfortable rankings on year-end lists.

"Yeah, we've seen ourselves on quite a few lists," writes drummer Axel Sjöberg. "We made it to No. 1 in the biggest rock/metal magazine in Sweden. On the cover and shit."

In said parlance, do musicians give a shit about lists? Helps maybe to show the parents?

"I guess it's a bit gratifying," admits Sjöberg. "But it's nowhere near the feeling you get when you play a sold-out show – seeing all those people really diggin' what you're doing."

"And sure, it helps to show family that it's something serious you're doing. And that we're supporting ourselves on our music. Even though we make the same money as a McJob."

The white-hot and hard Nordic hammer of Graveyard cooled somewhat on *Hisingen Blues*, molten steel finished off in a vat of H₂O. It's equally lithe but loud, more refined, with "Ungrateful Are the Dead" and "Uncomfortably Numb" among the most murderous and subtle moments respectively in this Graveyard. What were Sjöberg's favorites of 2011?

"There's a Swedish band called Tonbruket that released an album called *Dig It to the End*, which is excellent. Jazz folk psych sort of. Another Swedish band called Den Stora Vilan released their debut – West Coast psychedelia in the Grateful Dead's footprints. One of the members is Truls Mörck, who was in Graveyard in the beginning."

Given Graveyard's picturesque hometown port, home of the Volvo, make theirs Scandinavian psychedelia in San Francisco fault lines.

– Raoul Hernandez

Mohawk, Wednesday 25

Radio Moscow and Eagle Claw open.

CHARLIE HUNTER/ JIMBO MATHUS

Continental Club, Friday 20

An early/late tag team of guitars. Seven-string wiz Charlie Hunter can play bass, rhythm, and lead in one fell swoop. 2010's *Public Domain* is a solo affair, but here he's joined by drummer Derrek Phillips in a duo setting Hunter has excelled at for many years. That's at 8pm. 'Round midnight, Squirrel Nut Zippers founding member Jimbo Mathus unleashes deep Mississippi roots; his close association with Memphis, Tenn.'s Dickinson brood; and years spent traveling with Buddy Guy. 2011's *Confederate Buddha* was an impressive display of dirty blues and twanged country prowess. Shinyribs, courtesy of the Gourds' Kevin Russell, opens.

– Jay Trachtenberg

THE CARPER FAMILY

Cactus Cafe, Saturday 21

What began as an experiment at the Hole in the Wall has blossomed into one of Austin's most interesting new acts. The Carper Family, three women singing old-time and hillbilly songs with remarkable polish and poise, had a breakthrough year in 2011, drawing critical raves for its CD *Back When* and winning awards from as far away as Norway. This is the trio's first headlining gig at the Cactus and not likely its last.

– Jim Caligiuri



The Carper Family

LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO

ACL Live at the Moody Theater, Saturday 21

Even if you can't identify most of the wild-life on Ladysmith Black Mambazo's stirring 2011 collection, *Songs From a Zulu Farm*, you'll recognize closer "Old McDonald ... Zulu Style." It's a *Sesame Street* moment, sure, but then the South African chorale as old as the Rolling Stones did that back in the day with its *Graceland* collaborator Paul Simon. Founder Joseph Shabalala still leads the group, four of its eight current members sharing his surname. Harmonies from the heart of Mother Africa don't come any more transformative.

– Raoul Hernandez

IN THE NAME OF THE DAME TOO

Antone's, Sunday 22

Austin's collective heart is on its sleeve, lovingly embroidered with the names of those we adore. In the Name of the Dame is the second in a series of tributes to Texana Dame Traci Lamar Hancock, singer, songwriter, accordionist, and multi-instrumentalist fighting cancer. What's more debilitating: the disease or its financial fall-out? Most likely someone you know/love is asking that question, too. The Flatlanders, Lost Gonzo Band, Marcia Ball, and the Band of Heathens have the best answer: To dance is divine.

– Margaret Moser



Ladysmith
Black
Mambazo

PAPER CUTS: NOT IN THE FACE

Palm Door, Tuesday 24

Just when it seemed that the guitar/drum combo had been overly saturated in shades of Black & White, Austin's twopiece tornado Not in the Face blasted out last year's *Bikini* and proved there are still a few garage duo expectations left to shred. With Jonathan Terrell out front trading his country roots for assaulting guitar riffs and Wes Cargal abusing percussion behind the kit, Not in the Face inaugurate year two of the *Chronicle's* free music series with force. RSVP at austinchronicle.com/papercuts.

– Doug Freeman

THE KILLS

Stubb's, Wednesday 25

Nobody can curdle the cream in your coffee quite like the Kills. Alison Mosshart's righteous snarl and strut combine with Jamie Hince's black-leather back-alley blues to create the ultimate, idealized soundscape of what New York used to be, if only in Lou Reed's velvet imagination. New CD *Blood Pressures* (Domino) is a "Satellite" of lovelessness, all gamey, back-fed guitar and Mosshart's hot mess vox. It's got viper "DNA" and a bite you can dance to. Explosive Be Your Own Pet remainder Jeff the Brotherhood holds down the middle, with Hunters opening.

– Marc Savlov

CHABLIS

Sahara Lounge, Thursday 26

Whoever called Chablis the thinking man's Chardonnay hasn't taken in the pungent bouquet of this Brown Whörnet-spawned project. Its demented, foul-mouthed send-up of whiskey-bent Nashville, Tenn., country has all the subtlety of a beer belly protruding from an untucked pearl-snap shirt. It's as if David Allan Coe got in a high-desert collision with the Beasts of Bourbon just outside that new alien-themed brothel near Area 51. Thursday finds Chablis unveiling its Graham Reynolds-produced single, which boasts a guest turn from Redd Volkaert and Heybale!, 9pm.

– Greg Beets



Not in the Face



The Kills

soundcheck

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

SCOTT H. BIRAM

Red Eyed Fly, Friday 20

Blues Cuisinart with support from Big Boys bassist Chris Gates & Gatesville.

WEIRD WEEDS, SOME SAY LELAND

Skinny's Ballroom, Friday 20

"Three Austin bands operating at the fringes of the avant-folk/rock scene," writes Weedster Nick Hennies, the third being Amy Annelle & the True Vine.

WAYNE HANCOCK

White Horse, Friday 20

Honky-tonk heaven with Roger Wallace and Brennan Leigh.

MOMO'S RELIEF FUND BENEFIT

Antone's, Saturday 21

Dan Dyer, Drew Smith, Marshall Hood, Graham Wilkinson, and more of Momo's usual suspects for the shuttered club.

HAARP, MALA SUERTE

Dirty Dog Bar, Saturday 21

Phil Anselmo-endorsed Louisiana brutes meet Austin doom.

DAN HICKS & HIS HOT LICKS

One World Theatre, Sunday 22

Swinging and sliding since '68.

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL/ RAY BENSON SONG SWAP

Rattle Inn, Monday 23/Wednesday 25

Christening for Downtown honky-tonk with a songwriter encore.

WHISKEY SHIVERS

Hole in the Wall, Thursday 26

Country with a beer back, also the Navasota String Band and Uncle Lady.

in-stores:

Friday: **Ruthie Foster**, Waterloo Records, 5pm; **Macho Blush**, Gardenaella, Gym Mat Nap, Overevo, Trailer Space, 7pm; Saturday: **Something Called Nothing**, Millipede, Trailer Space, 7pm; Thursday: **Teenage News**, Big Eyes, Greg Enlow, Trailer Space, 7pm



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FRIDAY 1.20.12

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Ladies Night

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FRIDAY 1.27.12

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THURSDAY 1/19

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MASH-UP DJ TETSUO

IN THE GIBSON ROOM

SATURDAY 1/21

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THE ALTAR BOYZ**

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DJ KENN ROOFTOP DECK

DJ KID IN THE GIBSON ROOM

SUNDAY 1/22

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KALU JAMES
CLAYTON COLVIN
BAND
BECKHAM BROTHERS
KING CORDUROY
CACTUS FUZZ
WISEBIRD WILL EVANS
MARSHALL HOOD &
THE BADS
GRAHAM WILKINSON
BOESSI KREH
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ED JURDI (BAND OF HEATHENS)



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AND DEREK O'BRIEN
1/17 w/ MIKE FLANIGIN

FRI 20 JAN

SODA JERK
PRESENTS:

**SPIES LIKE US
STEADY LEGEND**
DOORS: 9PM

SAT 21 JAN

MOMO'S
REAL LIVE
MUSIC

**MOMO'S STAFF
BENEFIT SHOW**
T BIRD & THE BREAKS • ED JURDI
LITTLE BRAVE • K PHILLIPS
MEGGAN CARNEY • JEREMY NAIL
KALU JAMES • CLAYTON COLVIN BAND
BECKHAM BROTHERS
KING CORDUROY • CACTUS FUZZ
WISEBIRD • WILL EVANS
MARSHALL HOOD & THE BADS
GRAHAM WILKINSON
BOESSI KREH • ETHAN KENNEDY
DREW SMITH • DAN DYER

SUN 22 JAN

**IN THE NAME OF
THE DAME TOO**

**THE
FLATLANDERS**
LOST GONZO BAND
MARCIA BALL
MONTE WARDEN
BAND OF HEATHENS
DOORS @ 6PM

WED 25 JAN

HOLD MY BABY
& WATCH THIS

PAULINE REESE
THE RANKIN TWINS
KYLE RAE HARRIS
KIMBERLY KELLY
BRI BAGWELL
DOORS 8PM

THU 26 JAN

WAKA WINTER
CLASSIC
**THE
WAKARUSA**
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ASHES OF BABYLON
DIMITRI'S ASCENT
HOLDING SPACE
SOUL TRACK
MIND
STRAWBERRY
JAM
DOORS: 8PM

FRI 27 JAN

**THE
GOURDS**

**THE
PRESERVATION**
DOORS: 8PM

SAT 28 JAN

**BOB
SCHNEIDER**

**DANNY MALONE
NAKIA**
DOORS 8:30PM

SAT 28 JAN

NOON-4PM
FREE!

JamFest

Unsocialized
The Little Galaxy
The Old Theatre Guild
Lithium Sun
Retribution
Jester's Court
The Austeins
Electric Silk
The Others
Playing With Fire

SUN 29 JAN

SODA JERK
PRESENTS
**ME TALK
PRETTY**

MADINA LAKE
HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS
THE YOUNG ELECTRIC
DOORS: 6:30PM

WED 1 FEB

WHERE'S THE BAND?
featuring:

MATT PRYOR (THE GET UP KIDS)
ANTHONY RANERI (BAYSIDE)
ACE ENDERS (THE EARLY NOVEMBER)
CHRIS CONLEY (SAVES THE DAY)
EVAN WEISS (INTO IT, OVER IT.)

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THU 2 FEB

ANTONE'S &
EPISODE PHIVE
PRESENT:

MIKE PINTO

**UGLY LION
AXIS UNITY**
DOORS: 8PM

FRI 3 FEB

**CORY
MORROW**
SUZANNA
CHOFFEL
DOORS: 8PM

SAT 4 FEB

KOOP'S SURFIN'
17 A-GO-GO
BIRTHDAY PARTY!

JUNIOR BROWN

**BILL KIRCHEN
DEL-VIPERS**
DOORS: 7PM

SUN 5 FEB

TEXAS NORML
& EPISODE PHIVE
PRESENTS

**BOB MARLEY'S
BEST DAY CELEBRATION**
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

GENERAL SMILEY & MCPULLISH
DUB GIBSON & LITTLE SHANK
ROOT DIMENSION

TUE 7 FEB

LIVE NATION
PRESENTS

**The
DIAL UP TOUR**

MITCHELL DAVIS & KYLE SIBERT
OF LIVEALIVE
MEERKATITY NANALEW
DOORS: 6:00PM

TUR 9 FEB

**CODY
CANADA
& THE DEPARTED**

DOORS: 8PM

SAT 11 FEB

**ADAM
HOOD**
W/ BRIAN KEANE
DOORS: 9PM

WED 15 FEB

**BILL
MADDOX
TRIBUTE
& BDAY
CELEBRATION**
ERIC JOHNSON
JIMMIE VAUGHAN
GRADY
W/ OMAR DYKES,
STEPHEN BARBER, JAKE
ANDREWS & JANE BOND

THU 16 FEB

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SAT 18 FEB

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SCHNEIDER**

AND **MITCH
WATKINS**
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ELUVEITIE • REVOCATION
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
EAST, DOORS @ 6:30PM: **SYMPHONY X**
ICED EARTH • WARBRINGER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29
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ORION
SONORA
DJ DUS
HOBO D
PAGAME
KING LOUIE
MANOLO BLACK
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9:00PM - AUSTIN VIDA PRESENTS
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WEDNESDAY - 1/25
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6:00PM - TEX THOMAS
& THE DANGLING WRANGLERS

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- HILL'S CAFE**, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300
- HOLE IN THE WALL**, 2538 Guadalupe, 302-1470
- HOTEL VEGAS**, 1500 E. Sixth, 589-1411
- HOUSE WINE**, 408 Josephine, 322-5210
- HYATT REGENCY LOST PINES RESORT & SPA**, 575 Hyatt Lost Pines Rd., Lost Pines, 512/308-1234
- INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN**, 701 Congress, 457-8800
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- JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE**, 119 E. Main St., Round Rock, 512/310-7777
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- LA ZONA ROSA**, 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146
- LAMBERTS**, 401 W. Second, 494-1500
- LAS PALOMAS**, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
- LOVEJOYS TAPROOM & BREWERY**, 604 Neches, 477-1268
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- MUGSHOTS**, 407 E. Seventh, 236-0008
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- THE PALM DOOR**, 401 Sabine, 391-1994
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- PARAMOUNT THEATRE**, 713 Congress, 472-5470
- THE PARISH**, 214 E. Sixth, 473-8381
- PATSY'S CAFE**, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020
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- VICTORY GRILL**, 1104 E. 11th, 291-6211
- VOLSTEAD LOUNGE**, 1500 E. Sixth, 680-0532
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NOELLE HAMPTON
GINGER LEIGH

LATE SHOW
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PATRICK'S BEARD
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FRIDAY 01.20 *ROCK/POP/PUNK* DOORS 9:00
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AL SHIRE & THE HENCHMEN
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DON CHANI
MICAH SHALOM
& THE BABYLONIANS

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DREADNECK NIGHT: NO COVER
WITH THE MAU MAU CHAPLAINS

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 01.26: EARLY DOORS: KELLYE GRAY, SARAH SHARP
 GINGER LEIGH. LATER: JEFF LOFTON & HIS
 ELECTRIC THANG
 01.27: DUB GIDEON FEAT. LIKKLE SHANX,
 THE CONTRABANDITS
 01.28: GINA CHAVEZ

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 24 • 7PM
BRENNAN LEIGH

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25 • 7PM
TOMMY ELSKES
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wed **25 RAY BENSON SONG SWAP** feat. very special guests {8:00p}

thu **26 UNITED WAY CHARITY BENEFIT** feat. live music {7:30-9:30p}
 \$20 suggested donation at the door

fri **27 HAPPY HOUR** feat. MIKE KELLY {5:30-7:00p} LUCAS HUDGINS {9:30p}

sat **28 SMOKESTACK REVIEW CD RELEASE PARTY** {9:30p}

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SAT/JAN.21
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 (honky tonk swamp rock)

THUR/JAN.26
AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION
KARL MORGAN
 (down under soul blues)

FRI/JAN.27
BLACK RED BLACK
 (jazz)

SAT/JAN.28
FLYING BALALAIKA BROTHERS
 (A Texas Russian two step)

THUR/FEB.2
WARREN & MARSHALL HOOD
 (Americana)

THUR/FEB.3
CIENFUEGOS
 (Afro-Cuban)

SAT/FEB.4
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 (swing)

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FRI/JAN.20
ALBANIE & HER FELLAS
 (hot jazz)

SAT/JAN.21
PATRICIA VONNE
 (Latin indie soul)

WED/JAN.25
FLOYD DOMINO
 (boogie woogie hot jazz)

FRI/JAN.27
LORRIE SINGER & BRADLEY KOPP W/DAVID WEBB
 (singer songwriters)

SAT/JAN.28
BLACKBIRD 3
 (jazz)

WED/FEB.1
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 (jazz)

FRI/FEB.3
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 no cover

Wed Jan. 25 **Joe Sundell & Melissa Carper** 7 pm
 no cover

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Dustin Perkins 8 pm
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Mon Jan. 23 **Matt Powell** 8 pm
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Tue Jan. 24 **Graham Wilkinson** 9 pm
Autumn Boukadakis 8 pm
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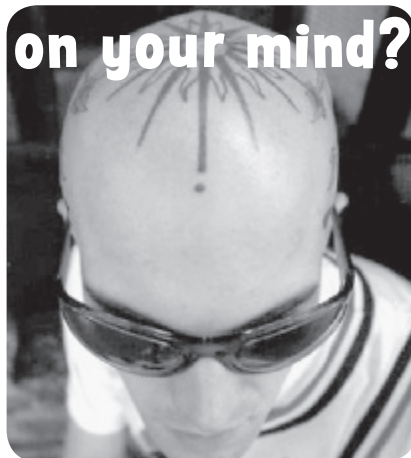
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CLUB LISTINGS

THURSDAY 19

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Kristen Mari & Running Slow
ANTONE'S Nurses, Mountain Goats (9:00) ★ R A
BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Justif A
BAT BAR Continuums
BEERLAND Night Viking, Unknown Relatives, Crooked Bangs, Gangster Rainbow (9:00) R
BLIND PIG PUB John Prather (4:30)
BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton ♪ (6:00)
CACTUS CAFE Chad Ibison (8:00) R A
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Graham Foster (7:00), Aaron Tinjum (9:00)
CENTER FOR MUSIC THERAPY Those Nights (10:00)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Austin Piazzolla Quintet ♪ (6:30) A
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kyle Park, Cody Johnson (9:30)
CHUGGIN' MONKEY Amber Lucille ♪ (4:30)
CLUB 1808 Annex: Victor Shores, I Apparatus, the Stampede, Thieves, Lightyears, Pentimento (7:00) R

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Denny Freeman, Tameca Jones (8:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30), Brandy Zdan, Lucas Hudgins, Weldon Henson (10:00)
CYPRESS CREEK CAFE Jeff Strahan (8:30)
DIZZY ROOSTER John Chavez (4:30)
DOWN UNDER DELI Open Mic w/ Bob Sarnataro ♪ (8:00)
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Quenby (7:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Scotty B. Trio A
ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her Fellas (6:00), Macchiato Quintet (9:30)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE D.B. Rouse ♪, Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettyle (6:00) A
FRIENDS Dive Bar All-Stars (10:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Karen Abrahams (6:00) A
GÜERO'S TACO BAR LeRoi Brothers (6:30)
THE HIGHBALL Two Hoots & a Holler (8:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Nasimiyu, the Couch, Soul Track Mind (9:00)

HOTEL VEGAS Tump, A Formal Affair, One Red Martian (9:00) R
INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Stephen F. Bar: Weldon Henson & Devin Preitauer
JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE Tiffany Alana Dodgen (7:00) A
KICK BUTT COFFEE Open Mic (8:00) A
LA PALAPA Johnny Gonzales (7:00)
LA ZONA ROSA Led Zeppelin 2 (8:00)
LAMBERTS Slowtrain, Seth Sherman (10:00)
LOVEJOYS TAPROOM & BREWERY The Beaumonts, Cunto, Honor Amongst Thieves (9:00) R
LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00); Huddle Barnacle, Treetop Sailors, the Bellmen, Meggan Carney (9:00)
LUSTRE PEARL African Children's Choir, Hunger Relief Benefit w/ Guy Forsyth, Patrice Pike, Carolyn Wonderland ★
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Dave Insley's Careless Smokers (7:00) A
MEAN-EYED CAT Brad Dunn & Ellis County (7:30) R
MOHAWK The Dalles, Salesman, Frank Smith LP Release (9:00)

ROAD SHOWS

January

THU 19

Mountain Goats, Nurses, Antone's
Crooked Bangs, Beerland
Chad Ibison, Cactus Cafe
Pentimento, Lightyears, I Apparatus, Victor Shores, Club 1808
One Red Martian, Hotel Vegas
Honor Amongst Thieves, Lovejoys Taproom & Brewery
Brad Dunn & Ellis County, Mean-Eyed Cat
The Civil Wars, Paramount Theatre
White Elephant, Shit City Dreamgirls, the Scoot Inn
Gabe Dixon & Lelia Broussard, Stubb's

FRI 20

The Toasters, Antone's
Jimbo Mathis, Charlie Hunter, Continental Club
Rockin' Lloyd Tripp, the Driskill Hotel
Joe Buck Yourself, Elysium
Latch Key Kids, Flamingo Cantina
Jane Jane Pollack, Lamberts
Reverend Deadeye, the Parish

Happy Campers, Poodle Dog Lounge
The Haymakers, the Red Rooster
Maggie Koerner, Paper Hotel, Stubb's
Honor Amongst Thieves, Trophy's

SAT 21

Ladysmith Black Mambazo, ACL Live at the Moody Theater
Bird Peterson, Beauty Bar
The Dead See, Club 1808
The Alabama Shakes, Continental Club
Haarp, Dirty Dog Bar
In Flames, Veil of Maya, Emo's East
Seryn, Mohawk
Rainbowdragoneyes, I Cactus, MonkeyWrench Books
B.J. Thomas, One World Theatre
Mason Jennings, Jillian Edwards, the Parish
The Reds, Sherlock's Baker St. Pub & Grill
Millipede, Trailer Space Records
Metranohm, Triple Crown

SUN 22

Dawn Upshaw, Bates Recital Hall
Reagan Jones, Roniit, Beauty Bar

Mike Stinson, Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon
Mitch Webb, Güero's Taco Bar
Dan Hicks & the Hot Licks, One World Theatre
Alvin Fielder Quartet, Christina Carter, Skinny's Ballroom

TUE 24

Bob Margolin, Antone's
After Young, Beauty Bar
Encore, Cedar Street

WED 25

Delicate Cutters, Beauty Bar
Sticky Bandits, Dahling, Beerland
Graveyard, Radio Moscow, Mohawk
Encore, Sherlock's Baker St. Pub & Grill
The Kills, Jeff the Brotherhood, Stubb's

THU 26

Ashes of Babylon, Dimitri's Ascent, Antone's
Slut River, Beerland
Sungod, Carousel Lounge
Whiskey Meyers, Cheatham Street Warehouse
Rebecca Loebe, Greg Trooper, Skinny's Ballroom

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. ACTS ARE LISTED CHRONOLOGICALLY. SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, SO CALL CLUBS TO CONFIRM LINEUPS. START TIMES ARE PROVIDED WHERE KNOWN AND ARE PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: MUSIC LISTINGS DEADLINE IS MONDAY MORNINGS, 9AM, FOR THAT WEEK'S ISSUE, PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY. PLEASE INDICATE ROADSHOWS AND RESIDENCIES. SEND VENUE NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, ACTS, AND START TIMES

TO: CLUB LISTINGS, PO BOX 49066, AUSTIN, TX 78765; FAX, 458-6910; PHONE, 454-5766 X159; EMAIL, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

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Thursday January 19th \$5 Cover
BRANDON CALLIES 7PM
 THE TIM CURRY TRIO HAPPY HOUR 4PM

Friday January 20th

11 pm \$7
DEBBI WALTON

6:30
LISA MARSHALL
 ASHLEY MONICAL 4PM

11:45 \$5
BRIAN POUNDS

10PM
AMBER LUCILLE
 CASEY HUBBLE 8PM
 Saturday January 21st

Sunday January 22nd No Cover
TESSY LOU & THE SHOTGUN STARS 3PM
 Monday January 23rd No Cover

TEXAS SONGWRITER SHOWCASE 6:30PM
 STEAK NIGHT!!
WC JAMESON HOSTS DANNY BROOKS
BRACKEN HALE 10PM
 Tuesday January 24th No Cover
JOHN INMON 8:30PM
BRIAN POUNDS 6:30PM
 ERIC TESSMER HAPPY HOUR 4PM
 Wednesday January 25th No Cover
 No BAD DAYS OPEN MIC 7PM WITH **BB MORSE**
JASON ALLEN HAPPY HOUR 4PM

2/3
WILL SEXTON

2/17
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SUN 22ND 10PM MON 23RD 10PM TUES 24TH 10PM WED 25TH 10PM

DANGERZONE AARON TINJUM SWEET PEA	MIKE & THE MOONPIES JOHN EVANS	THE SWEET NUTHIN SPACE CRAZIES CORY CROSS	CAUSE IN EFFECT CASS BROSTAD THE DEAD LEFT
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1/26 Whiskey Shivers 1/27 Churchwood 1/28 Muchos Backflips
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1/30 **BOBBY BARE JR.**
1/31 **ALEJANDRO ESCOBEDO**
2/10 **LOU ANN BARTON & BILL CARTER & THE BLAME**

THUR JAN 19
H. H. PLANET CASPER
12AM **WELDON HENSON**
10:30PM **LUCAS HUGGINS & HIS FIRST COUSINS**
9:30PM **BRANDY ZDAN**

FRIDAY JAN 20
EARLY SHOW
DOORS AT 7PM
SHOW AT 8PM

CHARLIE HUNTER +
12AM **JIMBO MATHUS**
10PM **SHINYRIBS**
SATURDAY JAN 21
MATINEE DOORS 3PM
SHOW 3:30PM
12AM **CORNELL HURD BAND**

ALABAMA SHAKES
10PM **MUDDPHONIC**
SUNDAY JAN 22
DOORS AT 6:30 SHOW AT 7:30PM
12AM **JUNIOR BROWN AND THE LOVELY TANYA RAE**

REDD VOLKAERT, EARL POOLE BALL PLUS DALLAS WAYNE
10PM

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MONDAY JAN 23
H. H. Adam Johnson & The Pay Me's
9:30PM **JADE IDOL**
11PM **ROSIE FLORES**
MARTI BROM TRIBUTE TO JANIS MARTIN
TUESDAY JAN 24
HAPPY HOUR 6:30PM
12AM **TONI PRICE**
10PM **SLOWTRAIN WARREN HOOD & THE GOODS**
WEDNESDAY JAN 25
12AM **HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN JAMES McMURTRY**
10PM **JON DEE GRAHAM**
THURSDAY JAN 26
H. H. PLANET CASPER
12AM **TWO HOOTS & A HOLLER**
10PM **EVE AND THE EXILES**
H. H. 6:30PM THE LEGENDARY **BLUES SPECIALISTS**
FRIDAY JAN 27
12AM **WHITE GHOST SHIVERS**
10:30PM **FLYING BALALAIKA BROTHERS**
9:30PM **LOW VOLTS**
SATURDAY JAN 28
MATINEE DOORS 3PM
SHOW 3:30PM
EARL POOLE BALL'S ROCKABILLY BLUZE W/ CASPER RAWLS
12:30AM **Ugly Beats**
11:15PM **BELLFURIES**
10PM **HORTON BROS.**

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY
THU 10:30 **TAMECA JONES**
8:30 **DENNY FREEMAN**
FRI • SAT • SUN 10:30
FRI & SUN W/ **MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO**
FRI 8:30 **JAKE LANGLEY**
FRI 8:30 **ROBERT KRAFT TRIO**
SAT 8:30PM **STEVE BERNAL'S ZODIAC**
SUN 8:30 **JON DEE & FRIEND SHOW**
WITH **MIKE KINDRED**

ART BY PEHR SMITH

GALLERY OPENS AT 8:00PM
MON 10:30 **THE LOST COUNTS**
8:30 **BEN LIVINGSTON TRIO**
TUE 10:30 **THE EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE**
8:30 **JAMES McMURTRY**
WED 10:30 **TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZZ**
8:30 **BUSTAMOOVALATORS**

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FRI, JAN 20

LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO
SAT, JAN 21

KEB'MO' w/ ANDERS OSBORNE
SAT, JAN 28

GABRIEL IGLESIAS
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SAT, FEB 4

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SAT, FEB 11

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FEB 16

LORETTA LYNN w/ Jim Lauderdale
FRI, FEB 17

TOMMY EMMANUEL
FEB 20

GLADYS KNIGHT
FRI, MAR 2

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WED JAN 25



SAT FEB 18

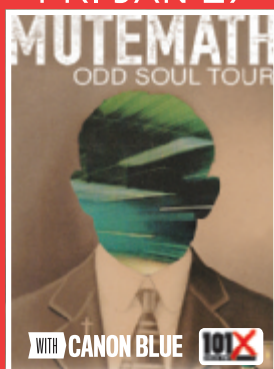


FRI APR 20



ON SALE
FRI JAN 20 10AM

FRI JAN 27



SAT MAR 3

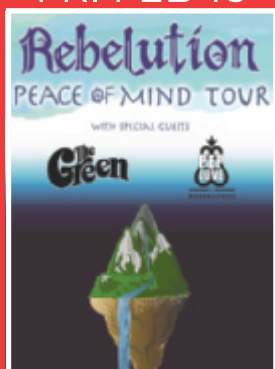


SAT MAY 5



ON SALE
FRI JAN 20 10AM

FRI FEB 10



FRI MAR 9



SUN MAY 6



ON SALE
FRI JAN 20 10AM

CLUB LISTINGS

FROM THURSDAY

ND AT 501 STUDIOS 2012 ATX
Producer Invitational Round 1
(9:00)

NEWORLEDEL Judith Miller Band
(7:00)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE The Civil
Wars (8:00) **R A**

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE
Tim Curry Trio (4:00) **A**, Nano
Whitman, Jason James (7:00)
A

RED EYED FLY Dem Waffle House
Boyz, Mr. Zo, RAM, D.R.O.I.D.

THE RED ROOSTER Rockin' Steve
(9:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Jaron Bell

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Nick
Connolly (7:00)

SAXON PUB Eightysixxed (6:00),
Matt the Electrician, Walter
Tragert CD Release, Fast Luke
& the Lead Heavy (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN Shit City
Dreamgirls, White Elefant
(9:00) **R**

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL
Big Max Band

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Big Circle, TX;
Jodi Adair; Lone Star Drifters

STUBB'S Saints of Valory, Gabe
Dixon & Lelia Broussard (9:00)
R

SWAN DIVE StormShelter, Hellfire
Social

THE THIRSTY NICKEL The Bomb
Squad (9:00)

THRICE Karen Tension, Kelli
Rhodes (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Mark Jungers
(6:00); Loose Leaf, Mamafesta,
Blacktop Ninjas (10:00)

TROPHY'S Hotrod Hillbillies

29TH STREET BALLROOM Last
Dance w/ DJ James, DJ Eli,
Bodytronix (10:00)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE The Shake
(11:00)

Z'TEJAS The Brew (6:00)

FRIDAY

ACL LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER
Rodney Carrington (6:30)

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny
Gonzales (5:00)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Guy
Forsyth

ANTONE'S Steady Legend, Spies
Like Us, the Toasters (9:00)
R A

BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL
Dahebebees **A**

BEAUTY BAR Little Radar,
Midgetmen, Boy + Kite,
Whitman

BEAUTY BAR BALLROOM Kendrick
Lamar (8:00)

BEERLAND Nazi Gold (9:00)

BLIND PIG PUB John Prather (4:30)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons,
Two Tons of Steel (8:00)

BUDDY'S PLACE Son Geezinslaw,
Glenn Collins (8:00)

CACTUS CAFE Erin Ivey (8:00) **A**

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Daniel Driver,
Austerity Measures, Why Not
Satellite?, the Rite Flyers (9:00)

CEDAR STREET Trent Durham (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Lost &
Nameless Orchestra (6:30) **A**

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Albanie &
Her Fellas (6:30) **A**

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Adam Hood (10:45)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Mike V. (4:30)

CONANS PIZZA Matt "Blue Cat"
Ferrel (6:30) **A**

CONTINENTAL CLUB In the Club:
Charlie Hunter, Shinyribs, Jimbo
Mathis (8:00) **A**, Gallery:
Robert Kraft Trio, Mike Flanigin
Trio (8:30)

DIZZY ROOSTER Aaron Navarro
(4:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station
Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar:
Atomic Duo, Rockin' Lloyd Tripp
(6:00) **R**

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Mariachi
Tamazula (8:00) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM In These Shoes,
the Wee Trio

ELYSIUM Joe Buck Yourself, Johnny
Hootrock, Viva Le Vox (9:30) **R**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Spill,
Buzzkillers, Al Shire & the
Henchmen, Latch Key Kids CD
Release (9:00) **R**

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Wild
Bill & the Lost Knobs (6:00);
Shawn Madden, Michael
Garfield, Sam Hammerman
(8:00) **A**

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
Dane Sterling, Scott Angle &
the Cold Cold Hearts (6:00)

GRUENE HALL Jason Eady (8:00) **A**

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Los Flames
(6:30)

THE HIGHBALL Magnificent 7 (7:00)

HILL'S CAFE Shad Blair **A**

HOTEL VEGAS Meggan Carney, Kalu
James, Wisebird (9:00)

**HYATT REGENCY LOST PINES RESORT
& SPA** Sheller's Bar: The
Middlemen (7:30)

**INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F.
AUSTIN** Danielle Reich (5:30)

LAMBERTS The Baker Family, Jane
Jane Pollack (10:30) **R**

LUCKY LOUNGE Riversyde,
Chronolung, the Raindogs,
Meggan Carney (9:00)

**LUCY'S RETIRED SURFERS BAR &
RESTAURANT** George Devore
(6:00); Miranda Dawn, Chris
Hawkes (10:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann
Atherton (7:00) **A**

MEAN-EYED CAT La Tampiquena
(9:00)

ND AT 501 STUDIOS Thunderosa,
Think Lizzy, Princess of
Darkness (9:00)

NEWORLEDEL Lisa Richards (7:00)

PAPI TINO'S Adam Carney (6:00)

THE PARISH Reverend Deadeye
(9:00) **R**

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE
Ashley Monical (4:30) **A**

POODLE DOG LOUNGE Mouseabout,
Happy Campers **R**

RED EYED FLY Big Chris Gates &
Gatesville, Scott H. Biram

THE RED ROOSTER The Haymakers
(9:30) **R**

RILEY'S TAVERN Pee Wee Moore

SAM'S TOWN POINT Fossil & the
Shrinking Members

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Matt
Farrell (11:30am)

SAXON PUB Earl Poole Ball & the
Cosmic Americans (6:00), W.C.
Clark, Jon Inmon (9:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL
Video Stars

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS NORTH
Capital Suspects (9:00)

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Amy Annelle
& the True Vine, Some Say
Leland, the Weird Weeds, Brothers of the Castle (10:00)

STARDUST CLUB Garrett Endress

STUBB'S Paper Hotel, Shiny
Empire, Maggie Koerner LP
Release (9:00) **R**

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FRI JAN 27 DOORS 11PM

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SAT JAN 28 DOORS 9PM

THE FEATURES WITH **SPEAK**

TUE JAN 31 DOORS 9PM

THE DIRTY GUV'NAHS
WITH **BROTHER OF PEARL**

THU FEB 2 DOORS 9PM

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SAT FEB 4 DOORS 9PM

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MON FEB 6 DOORS 9PM

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REYNOLDS NUMBER
& **LITTLE BRAVE**

2-25* **REPTAR**
WITH **QUIET HOOVES**

3-23* **THE NAKED & FAMOUS**
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CLUB LISTINGS

SWAN DIVE Muchos Backflips! ♪, J. Wesley Haynes Trio ♪, Digital Antique ♪

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Code Blue

TEXAS MIST DJ Joe Hernandez (9:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS Overevo, Gym Mat Nap, Gardenaella, Macho Blush (7:00) A

TRINITY HALL Cryin' Cole Wilson & Those Miserable Cowboys, Shakey Graves, Hello Wheels (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Arcade Riot w/ 2 Buck Drunks, Buzz & Bangs, Winter Dance Party ♪, Beer Gnomes (9:00)

TROPHY'S Ultra Wolf, Diesel & Dixie, Honor Amongst Thieves, Splithoof A

WATERLOO RECORDS Ruthie Foster (5:00) A

SATURDAY

ACL LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER Ladysmith Black Mambazo (6:30) R

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny Gonzales (5:00)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Soulfed

ANTONE'S Momo's Staff Benefit w/ Dan Dyer ♪, Drew Smith, Ethan Kennedy, Boessi Kreh, Graham Wilkinson, Marshall Hood & the Bad, Will Evans, Wisebird, Cactus Fuzz, King Corduroy, Beckham Bros., Clayton Colvin Band, Kalu James ♪, Jeremy Nail, Meggan Carney, K. Phillips, Little Brave ♪, Ed Jurdi, T Bird & the Breaks (6:00) A

BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Video Stars A

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB The Top Kats ♪ (10:30)

BEAUTY BAR Go Go Garcia, Ocelot, Bird Peterson, Man Hold Up R

BEERLAND The Creationists (9:00)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, Alvin Crow (8:00)

CACTUS CAFE The Carper Family (8:00) A

CAFFE MEDICI Waterloo Trio (noon)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Band of Liars, Grapes, Three Leaf ♪, Soapbox Spellbinders (9:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Earl Poole Ball (6:30) A

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Patricia Vonne (6:30) A

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE HalleyAnna (10:45)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Widgeon (4:30)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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 *2/18 Los Campesinos! W/ Parenthetical Girls (c3concerts.com)
 *2/25 The Band of Heathens (c3concerts.com)
 *3/3 William Fitzsimmons (c3concerts.com)
 *3/30 Easley w/ Marksmen, Christie Dupree (c3concerts.com)
 *4/10 The Boxer Rebellion
 (tix onsale Fri Jan 20 @ 10am thru c3concerts.com)
 *4/11 Bowerbirds w/ Dry the River (c3concerts.com)
 *4/24 Bear in Heaven (c3concerts.com)
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10 SABROSON
Sat, Jan 21
SATURDAY NIGHT SHOWCASE
8:30 STEVEN BIGHAM
10 MIKE JUNE & THE WILSON STREET REFUGEES
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7:30 MARSHALL HOOD BAND
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CLUB LISTINGS

FROM SATURDAY

CLUB 1808 Annex: Grains of Light, Unmothered, Old & Ill, DSGNS, the Dead See (9:00) **R**

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin Trio (9:00); In the Club: The Cornell Hurd Band (3:00), Mudphonic, the Alabama Shakes (10:00) **R**

DIRTY DOG BAR Mala Suerte, Haarp **R**

DIZZY ROOSTER Mike V. (4:30)

DOWN UNDER DELI Neal Ford Combo (8:00)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Patricia G. (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Ephraim Owens Quintet (9:30)

EMO'S EAST Kyng, Veil of Maya, Trivium, In Flames (6:30) **R A**

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Daisy O'Connor; Raul Adrian Ochoa; Ray Prim, Aly Tadros, Tom Meny (6:00) **A**

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Glenn Collins (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Wade Bowen (9:00) **A**

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Jason Molins (6:30)

THE HIGHBALL DJ Gordy Greenawalt, DJ Jay Malls (9:00)

HILL'S CAFE Cade Baccus **A**

HOTEL VEGAS Esther Lavonne, Amy Atchley, 19th Moon, Sevonica (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Type A (9:00)

LUCY'S RETIRED SURFERS BAR & RESTAURANT James Bullard (6:00); Clayton Colvin, Stewart Mann & the Statesboro Revue (9:30)

MEAN-EYED CAT Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (9:00)

MOHAWK My Golden Calf, Seryn (10:00) **R**

MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS Yoshi Eat Da Mawio, Peter Swimm, Yatagarasu, I Cactus, Rainbowdragoneyes **R**

ND AT 501 STUDIOS Zeale, Larissa Ness **J** (9:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Mingo Fishtrap **J** (11:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE B.J. Thomas **R A**

PAPI TINO'S Kiko Villamizar (6:00)

THE PARISH Jillian Edwards, Mason Jennings (9:00) **R**

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Casey Hubble **J**, Tim Curry Trio, Brian Pounds **A**

POODLE DOG LOUNGE Chris Beirne & David Patrick Dunn (8:30)

THE RED ROOSTER Lou Dog

RILEY'S TAVERN Mike & the Moonpies **J**

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Dr. James Polk

SAXON PUB Eightysixxed, Will Sexton, Deuce Coupe (7:30)

THE SCOOT INN Smithers, Bottle Service, the French Inhales 7-inch Release (9:00)

SFC FARMERS' MARKET AT SUNSET VALLEY Jimmy Joe Natoli, the Better Halves, Corrina Rachel (9:00am)

SFC FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Blacktop Bend **J** (10:00am)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL The Reds **R**

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS CEDAR PARK Matt Begley & Bitter Whiskey (9:30)

STUBB'S Radio Fallout **J**, Nooner, Waiting for August, Squint **J**

SWAN DIVE Brittany Shane CD Release

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Sean Evans (4:30), Guilty Pleasures (9:00)

THRICE Jan Seides **J** (7:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS Millipede, Something Called Nothing **J** (7:00) **R A**

TRINITY HALL Henry + the Invisibles **J**, Equals, Zlam Dunk (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Metranohm, Spank (10:00) **R**

TROPHY'S The Anti-Scene **J**, Accord of Dissonance, Ugly Elephant **J**

29TH STREET BALLROOM Prokofiev's Visions Fugitives w/ Dr. Jeff Hellmer, Golden Hornet Project (8:00)

VICTORY GRILL Mix It Up Saturdays w/ DJ Junior Vibes

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE DJ Orion (10:00)

SUNDAY

ANTONE'S Traci Lamar Hancock Tribute Benefit w/ the Band of Heathens, Monte Warden, Marcia Ball, Lost Gonzo Band, the Flatlanders (7:00) **A**

BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Open Mic w/ Justif (7:00) **A**

BATES RECITAL HALL Dawn Upshaw (7:00) **R**

BB ROVERS Open Mic (7:00) **A**

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (9:00)

BEAUTY BAR Lucid Dementia **J**, Roniit, Reagan Jones **R**

BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR Kevin & the Krawlers (8:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)

CEDAR STREET Much Love (8:00)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Mike V. (4:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Dee Graham & Mike Kindred, Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Jake Langley (8:30); In the Club: Junior Brown & Tanya Rae (7:00), Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00) **A**

DIZZY ROOSTER Mylon English (4:30)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Kevin Lovejoy (9:30)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Candy Lee, Martin Bemberg, Bamfire Quartet (6:00) **A**

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Mike Stinson (4:00) **R**

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT Jacques Vilmain (11:00am) **A**

GRUENE HALL Clay McClinton **J** (4:00) **A**

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Mitch Webb (3:00) **R**

THE HIGHBALL Josh Allen & the Whisky Brothers (10:00)

A ALL AGES VENUE **R** ROADSHOW **★** RECOMMENDED **J** HEAR MUSIC ONLINE

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matt the electrician
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Walter Tragert >
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fast luke and the lead heavy
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No Cover Happy Hour 6PM
Eightysixxed with David Holt

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

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john inmon
11:30PM \$10
No Cover Happy Hour 6PM
CARL POOLE BALL and the COSMIC AMERICANS

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Eightysixxed
with David Holt & Tommy Shannon
7:30PM \$10
WILL SEXTON
9:30PM \$10
DEUCE COUPE 11:30PM \$5
THE GOVERNORS 6PM \$10

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

THE RESENTMENTS
with Bruce and Scrappy 7:30PM \$7
Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel
6PM \$15
John Evans 10:30PM \$5
Emily Bell 12:30AM \$5
RAG BIRDS 3PM No Cover

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

LONELYLAND
8:30PM \$10
RAMSAY MILWOOD 7PM \$10
[jack wilson] 11PM \$5
THE LEAVERS 12:30AM \$5

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

Bruce Hughes and the All Nude Army
8:30PM \$5
Cari Hutson 10:30PM \$5
LISA MARSHALL 12AM \$5
No Cover Happy Hour David Grissom 6PM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros 9PM \$10
CARSON ALEXANDER 11PM \$5
union specific 12:30AM \$5
No Cover Happy Hour The Nortons 6PM

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JAN 28 DOUG MORELAND BAND

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Flipnotics

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FRIDAY (1.20)
• Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs 6pm
• Sam 9pm

SATURDAY (1.21)
• Raoul Adrian 8pm
• Ray Primm, Aly 9pm

SUNDAY (1.22)
• Candy Lee 6pm
• Martin 8pm
• Barnfire 9pm

MONDAY (1.23)
• Bottom Dollar String Band 6pm
• The Bluegrass Outfit 8pm

TUESDAY (1.24)
• Erik 9pm

WEDNESDAY (1.25)
• Songwriter Series 8pm

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FRI 1/20 9PM
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TYPE A 9PM

SUN 1/22
BOTH FEET 9PM

MON 1/23 9PM
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TUE 1/24 9PM
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THU 1/26 10PM
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9:30PM
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ALVIN CROW

TUE, JAN 24 6-8PM
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CLUB LISTINGS

FROM SUNDAY

HOLE IN THE WALL John Evans, Mike & the Moonpies ♫ (9:00)
HOTEL VEGAS Kevin McKinney, John Branch (9:00)
HOUSE WINE Justin Landers (6:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Both Feet (9:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (7:30)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am) **A**
ONE WORLD THEATRE Dan Hicks & the Hot Licks **R** **A**
PAPI TINO'S DJ Adrian Quesada (11:30am)
THE PARISH Befriend the Bears CD Release, Rikavista, Shakey Graves, the White White Lights
POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Tessy Lou Williams (3:00) **A**
RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Timbas Del Norte (8:00) **A**
SAM'S BBQ Acoustic Open Mic w/ Lili and Walter ♫ (2:00)
SAXON PUB Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel, the Resentments, John Evans, Emily Bell (6:00)
SKINNY'S BALLROOM No Idea w/ *On The Edge: Improvisation In Music* Screening, Christina Carter, Alvin Fielder Quartet (6:00) **R**
SPEAKEASY Adam Rodgers (10:00)
TOM'S TABOOLEY Nancy Scott (2:00) **A**
TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Grant Ewing, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds
TROPHY'S Izzy & the Catastrophics
VOLSTEAD LOUNGE The Boogie (10:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Jeff Lofton (11:00am) **A**
Z'TEJAS The Jitterbug Vipers

MONDAY

ANTONE'S Austin Blues Society (8:00) **A**
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30) **A**
BAR 141 Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (7:00)
'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Hill Country Gentlemen
CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30) **A**
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ben Livingston Trio, the Lost Counts (7:00); In the Club: Adam Johnson & the Pay Me's (6:30), Janis Martin Tribute w/ Marti Brom, Rosie Flores (10:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00) **A**
ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)
EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30) **A**
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Bottom Dollar String Band, the Bluegrass Outfit (6:00) **A**
GIDDY UPS Mark Allen Atwood (7:00)
GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (6:00) **A**
HALCYON World Music Jam w/ Roberto Riggio (10:00) **A**

THE HIGHBALL MatchMaker Band (9:30)
HOUSE WINE Justif (7:30)
JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE Tiffany Alana Dodgen (7:00) **A**
LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
LUCKY LOUNGE Masikrator, Immerse (9:00)
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson (8:00) **A**
MUGSHOTS Acoustic Open Mic (8:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Tris & Tes (4:00), Braken Hale, Songwriters Showcase (4:00) **A**
RATTLE INN Asleep at the Wheel (8:00)
ROMEO'S Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettyle (6:45) **A**
SAXON PUB Ramsay Midwood, Lonelyland, Jack Wilson, the Leavers
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Michael Wood
SKINNY'S BALLROOM Open Mic w/ Tricky Jones, Amelia Card (7:00)
SPEAKEASY Caitie Taylor (10:00)
THE THIRSTY NICKEL Austin Heat (9:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Robbie & the Robots (6:00); Chief & the Doomsday Device (9:00)
TROPHY'S Monkeyshines, the Ideals
VICTORY GRILL Open Pro Blues Jam w/ Matthew Robinson, Harold McMillan (9:00)

TUESDAY

ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Bob Margolin (10:30) **R** **A**
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30) **A**
BAT BAR The Bomb Squad
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith (7:00)
BEAUTY BAR Emo's Hotdog Party w/ Chiors, After Young, Diving, Eleven Seventeen (10:00) **R**
BEERLAND Randa Briggs Bonerfest (9:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Guilty Pleasures
'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Amanda, Leon Rausch Tribute (6:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Chris Douthitt Composers Night (7:00)
CEDAR STREET Much Love, Encore (8:00) **R**
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Tate Mayeux & Broussard, John Evans (9:30), John Evans (11:00)
CHUGGIN' MONKEY John Chavez (4:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: James McMurtry, Ephraim Owens Experience (8:30); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30) ♫, Warren Hood & the Goods, Slowtrain (10:30)
DIZZY ROOSTER Jonny Gray (4:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Liz Morphis (8:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Matt Farrell (7:00) **A**
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), William Menefield Quartet (9:30)

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (7:00) **A**
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Jen Tucker (6:00); Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00) **A**
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON The Conclusion Jumpers (9:00)
GOGO BAR Guilty Pleasures
HILL'S CAFE Open Mic Night **A**
HOUSE WINE David Webb (8:00)
LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
LUCKY LOUNGE Hunters & Gatherers ♫ (9:00)
LUCY'S RETIRED SURFERS BAR & RESTAURANT Song Swap, the Twalls (6:00)
MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA Austinsongz (7:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT Bracken Hale (7:30)
MOHAWK Other Lovers, MaryAnn & the Revival Band ♫, Stewart Gersmann (10:00)
NEOWORLDELI Beth Lee & the Breakups (7:00)
THE PALM DOOR *Chronicle* Papercuts w/ Not in the Face ♫! (7:00)
PATSY'S CAFE Sand & Sunnie (6:30)
PLUSH Sonar
POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Eric Tessmer (4:00); Brian Pounds, Jon Inmon (6:30) **A**
RILEY'S TAVERN Mark Sebby
RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00) **A**
SAXON PUB David Grissom (6:00), Bruce Hughes, Cari Hutson, Lisa Marshall (8:30)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL John Boyd
SKINNY'S BALLROOM Bob Hoffnar (7:00), Modrag (9:30)
THE THIRSTY NICKEL Aaron Navarro (9:00)
TRIPLE CROWN The Pistolsmiths (6:00); Blues by Night, Jumbobfunk (9:00)
TROPHY'S Acoustic Open Mic (9:00)
29TH STREET BALLROOM Seth Sherman, The Lonesome Heroes (10:00)
WHIP IN Odd Tuesday Open Mic w/ DC Bloom (8:00) **A**
Z'TEJAS Robert Kelly (6:00)

WEDNESDAY

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny Gonzales (5:00)
ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Pete Benz
ANTONE'S Bri Bagwell, Kimberly Kelly, Kyle Rae Harris, the Rankin Twins (9:00) **A**
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Brooke Avid (10:00)
BEAUTY BAR Western Ghost House, Delicate Cutters, John Wesley Coleman **R**
BEERLAND Dahling, Bike Problems, Sticky Bandits, Capitalist Kids LP Release (9:00) **R**
BROKEN SPOKE T. Jarrod Bonta, Dance Lessons, Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (6:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Cabrini Green ♫, Profane Anything Band (7:00)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Floyd Domino (6:30) **A**

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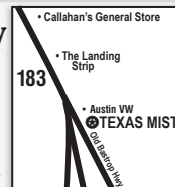
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CLUB LISTINGS

FROM WEDNESDAY

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle
(11:00)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Mike V. (4:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Bustamoovalators; Trube,
Farrell, & Snizz (8:30); In the
Club: Hot Club of Cowtown
(6:30); Jon Dee Graham, James
McMurtry (10:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER Mylon English (4:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station
Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar:
Bruce Smith (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
James Speer (8:00) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharaohs
(6:00)

ELYSIUM Mid-Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin
Spice, DJ Edminister (8:00)

GIDDY UPS Open Mic (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
Weldon Henson (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Gordy Quist & Ed
Jurdi (6:00) **A**

THE HIGHBALL Black Red Black
(10:00)

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick
McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd
(6:30) **A**

MEAN-EYED CAT Teddy Long (7:30)

MOHAWK Outside: Eagle Claw,
Radio Moscow, Graveyard
(7:30); Inside Later: Pushmen,
Smoke & Feathers (10:00) **R**

NEWORLEDEL Jeff Tveraas, Joel
McColl (7:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE
Thom Shepherd (4:00), Open
Mic w/ B.B. Morse (7:00) **A**

RATTLE INN Ray Benson Song Swap
(8:00)

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly"
Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED EYED FLY Glare (9:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Robbie Doyen

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, La
Mona Loca (9:00) **A**

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues
Jam w/ Breck English (8:40)

SAXON PUB The Nortons (6:00),
Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros,
Carson Alexander, Union
Specific (9:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL
Encore **R**

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS NORTH LC
Rocks (9:30)

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Tim Curry Trio,
Matt Smith's World, LZ Love
(6:00)

SPEAKEASY Three Cocks & a Box
(10:00)

STUBB'S Hunters, Jeff the
Brotherhood, the Kills (10:00)
R

SWAN DIVE Clyde & Clem's Whiskey
Business **J**

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Prime Directive
(9:00), Richard Aaron RAB (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Molly J. Hayes
(6:00)

TROPHY'S Brandon Bolin, the Frank
Mustard Project, the 100 Watt
Three

Z'TEJAS Jeff Plankenhorn, Stephen
Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THURSDAY

ANTONE'S Strawberry Jam, Soul
Track Mind, Holding Space,
Dimitri's Ascent, Ashes of
Babylon (9:00) **R A**

BAT BAR Continuums

BEAUTY BAR DJ Scorpio

BEERLAND Smithers, Slut River,
Lola Cola (9:00) **R**

BLIND PIG PUB John Prather (4:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison,
Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton **J**
(6:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Low Victor
Echo **J**, Sungod **R**

CENTER FOR MUSIC THERAPY Don
Harvey (10:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Charlie Shafter, Whiskey Meyers
(9:30) **R**

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Amber Lucille **J**
(4:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Denny
Freeman, Tameca Jones (8:30);
In the Club: Planet Casper
(6:30), Eve & the Exiles, Two
Hoots & a Holler (10:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER John Chavez (4:30)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar:
Devin Preitauer, Lisa Marshall,
Emily Gimble (5:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her
Fellas (6:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Jeff Lofton's
Electric Thang (10:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE D.B.
Rouse **J**, Open Mic w/ Lisa
Kettyle, Derek Evans (6:00) **A**

FRIENDS Dive Bar All-Stars (10:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
Alvin Crow (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR The
Recuperators (6:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Whiskey Shivers

HOTEL VEGAS Cari Hutson & Good
Company, Mia Borders (9:00)

INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F.
AUSTIN Stephen F. Bar: Weldon
Henson & Devin Preitauer

KICK BUTT COFFEE Open Mic (8:00)
A

LA PALAPA Johnny Gonzales (7:00)

LOVEJOYS TAPROOM & BREWERY
Zero Skills, Whiskey Dick, Black-
Eyed Vermillion (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan &
the Bump Band (6:00); Blues
Society Benefit (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Dave Insley's
Careless Smokers (7:00) **A**

MEAN-EYED CAT The Memphis
Strange (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE
Tim Curry Trio (4:00); Jimmy &
the Rollers, Lone Star Drifters
(8:00) **A**

RATTLE INN United Way Benefit w/
(7:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Mashed Potato
Johnson

THE SAHARA LOUNGE Chablis w/
Redd Volkaert, Heybale! (9:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Earl Poole
Ball (6:30)

SAXON PUB Eightysixxed (6:00),
Matt the Electrician **J**, Fast Luke
& the Lead Heavy, Damn Quails
(8:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL
Rat Ranch

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Jesse Aycock,
Greg Trooper, Rebecca Loebe **R**

STUBB'S Hello Wheels, the Sour
Bridges, Fatback Circus

THE THIRSTY NICKEL The Bomb
Squad (9:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS Greg
Enlow, Big Eyes, Teenage News
(7:00) **A**

TRIPLE CROWN Erickson (6:00); Are
You Crazy?, Bonsai Nation, Freq
528 (10:00)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE Alpha Rev
(9:00), the Shake (11:00)

Z'TEJAS The Brew (6:00)

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a shot in the dark

CLOWN' AROUND

You - Wearing blue clown suit running amok on 6th; Me - Asked to take a picture with you and accidentally touched a little too low, seltzer and vodka sometime? **When: Saturday, December 17, 2011. Where: 6th St.. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905486**

ILUVVIDEO 1/11/12 ~7:00PM

You said "Hi!" when I entered - ILV's greeter? Leaving, you babbled at my pink leathers and Kawi, I babbled back. Then your buddy dragged you away... Try again? **When: Wednesday, January 11, 2012. Where: I Luv Video on Airport. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905485**

KOENIG 2 AM

You offered me a ride while I was walking home alone. Just wanted to say thanks for watching my back. **When: Tuesday, January 10, 2012. Where: Koenig. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #905484**

KIM FROM LAKELINE

I'm taking a chance here, hope it's not a mistake. Advice was respect your last text, but I miss you since New Year's Day. Find me at Starbucks or online. **When: Sunday, January 1, 2012. Where: The mall. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905483**

SHORTBROWNSWEET AT BOOKPEOPLE

Your effeminate grace juxtaposed with manly stubble made me feel like I was riding a majestic pony. Your name tag said Danny. How about a night together, you hot jalepeno? **When: Monday, January 9, 2012. Where: BookPeople. You: Man. Me: Man. #905481**

TATTOOED MUSIC LOVER

You were perusing the music section at Half Price Books at Mopac/Parmer. I was perusing you. You said Hi. I should have said more. Want to meet there next Sunday? **When: Sunday, January 8, 2012. Where: Half Price Books. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905480**

GORGEOUS DART PLAYER

Playing darts at C&A but I thought you had a bf on Christmas night. He was not your bf. You are gorgeous with an even better smile. Dinner? **When: Sunday, December 25, 2011. Where: Crown & Anchor. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905478**

CENTRAL MARKET SUNDAY

~7pm Mid-20s. You: dark hair & eyes, boots with heels. You looked at me. "How are you?" "Good, how are you?" Would've stopped to talk, but couldn't. I can explain. **When: Sunday, January 8, 2012. Where: Central Market. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905477**

PLEATHEROUS

DECENTRALIZED DANCE
Style, grammar, sparkle: your look! Yes, it was leather. Our pleatherously pluperfect encounter could still be a very pleasant present. Look harder! Or shoot me back here in the dark **When: Saturday, January 7, 2012. Where: Decentralized Dance Party. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905476**

BIKE/SEPTUM PIERCING

You: riding on I-35 frontage road crossing cesar chavez, almost ran into my friend's car as we were turning right. You're cute. Me: passenger in my friend's car. Coffee? **When: Sunday, January 8, 2012. Where: I-35 and Cesar Chavez. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905475**

MESSAGE

CHARLIE - HAPPY

BIRTHDAY to my beautiful husband. You are my light and love. -H-

The Luv Doc

Dear Luv Doc,

My husband recently got himself a pair of metallic truck nuts and hung them on the back of his Silverado.

I have to say a line's been crossed.

How do I break it to him gently, Luvdoc, that I don't want to be driving around in any vehicle that's got a pair of chrome-plated faux bull testicles attached to it?

Sincerely yours,
Teabagged in Tarrytown

Two words, Teabagged: truck twat. The time has come. It's what Fox News would call "fair and balanced" (which, by the way, are the names of Rupert Murdoch's testicles). If your husband has the temerity to tool around River City (or even Buda, for that matter) with a bovine scrote swinging from his hitch, there's a good chance that whining about his insensitivity won't put the kibosh on his freeballing. You need to hit him where he's sensitive ... and believe me ... people with big cajones are more sensitive than you might think. Once he sees your bitch hitch has wizard sleeves, he might just castrate his Silverado without even being asked. Remember, just like balls: the bigger the

What Next: Truck Taint?

better. Make sure your truck twat is massive enough to intimidate even the most confident bull. That should to the trick, but be prepared to up the ante. With a couple of quarts of pig blood, some polyethylene tubing, an IV bag, and a modified fuel pump, you can design a truck twat that hits all phases of the menstrual cycle. Don't cut him any slack. If you do it right, he will be out there at least three days of every month scrubbing the red stains off the driveway. You might also want to drive a little crazier during those times as well: Cut people off; stop short and get rear-ended; run some reds. He may not get the brilliant symbolism, but rest assured that after a few months' worth of dealing with a bovine-sized red tide, he'll be looking for a way to compensate for his small penis that doesn't involve chrome-plated mountain oysters.

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PROFILE OF THE WEEK

LETS MAKE ADVENTURE!

Laid back guy 28 years old seeking someone new to meet and have adventures with. Want to make 2012 an adventurous one so shoot me a line if you're interested.
gtray783, 28

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COMIX



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS

Most species of moles have six fingers, including a thumb and a pseudthumb. Unlike true fingers, the pseudthumb has no joints.

Della Mae Hogan, Marilyn Monroe's maternal grandmother, worked as an occasional midwife in Mexico.

According to the British Egg Information Service, one in a thousand eggs on average is a double-yolker. What are the chances of finding a half-dozen double-yolk eggs in a single box? One in a billion.

Perkins Tractors were a quack medical device that consisted of a steel rod and a brass rod. Inventor Elisha Perkins claimed they were rare alloys that could draw out "noxious electrical fluid that lay at the root of suffering" by simply passing them over the skin. Reportedly, George Washington bought a pair.

Bicycle Polo, which is recently repopularized, was invented in 1891. At the 1908 Olympics, Ireland beat Germany for the gold medal.



At left is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or email mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

PEPPERMINT TEARS

RYAN HENNESSEE 2011



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SOFTWARE ARCHITECT for Austin office. Design and create applications for web, Windows and mobile platforms. Send resume to RW3 Technologies Inc., Attn: Winston Williams, P.O. Box 685061, Austin, TX 78768.

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STUDIES

MIGRAINES

MIGRAINE RESEARCH STUDY

Premier Research is looking for adults between the ages of 18-65 years old to participate in a research study of an investigational medication for migraines.

You may pre-qualify if you have at least a one-year history of migraines with onset prior to the age of 50.

Qualified participants may receive the following at no cost:
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Tekton Research is conducting a research study to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication to treat knee pain due to osteoarthritis.

You may qualify if you:

- are between 40 and 85 years of age
- have osteoarthritis in your knee
- are currently taking medication
- are still experiencing moderate to severe pain.

If you qualify, all study-related health care, lab tests and study drug are provided at no charge. You will also be compensated up to \$425 for your participation. For more information, call us, follow us or visit our website!

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TEKTON RESEARCH

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Have you been raped, attacked, experienced a serious car accident, or combat experience and continue to be haunted by memories of the trauma?

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To apply contact:
UT Laboratory for the Study of Anxiety Disorders at 512-404-9118

Is your KNEE PAIN keeping you from doing things you enjoy?

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MIGRAINE Research Study

Premier Research is looking for adults between the ages of 18-65 years old to participate in a research study of an investigational medication for migraines. You may pre-qualify if you have at least a one-year history of migraines with onset prior to the age of 50.

Qualified participants may receive the following at no cost:

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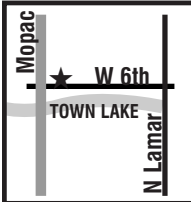
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Riverside, 1 Exit to Downtown
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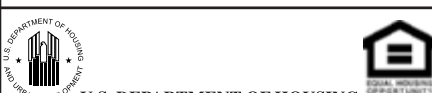
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McLennan County Courthouse
501 Washington Avenue
Waco, TX 76701
(Bottom of Stairs to Washington
Street Entrance)

Terms:
All Cash/30-day closing
Unstated Minimum

Download the Bid Kit & see photos at:
[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/mfh/pd/mfplist)
[offices/housing/mfh/pd/mfplist](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/mfh/pd/mfplist)
or request by phone by contacting the Realty Specialist



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Note: This advertisement is placed by HUD and
does not constitute the legal notice of foreclosure sale.

Earnest money to bid:
\$100,000

Letter of Credit:
A \$1,108,163 Letter of Credit
(LoC) is required at closing
to insure repairs

To submit a bid:
Bids may be submitted in
writing or made orally at
the foreclosure sale.
Interested parties must obtain
a bid kit before they can bid.

**After receipt of bid kit
address questions to:**
robert.h.laquey@hud.gov
Ft. Worth HUD MFPD Center
(817) 978-5819

CENTRAL
AustinCool.com
512-693-7231

**SPRING LOFT
TOWER
HIP WEST
DOWNTOWN**

Nightlife & Restaurant Area by Whole Foods. Fewer Units per floor mean quieter living. Ultra-modern w/floor to ceiling windows, downtown views. Includes parking. AUSTINCOOL.COM



CENTRAL
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**BRIDGES ON
THE PARK**

Live on the Trail! Loft-style condo. High ceilings, granite countertops, hardwood floors, W/D included, large windows, gas range.

512-693-7231



CENTRAL Small Clarksville community. Hardwood floors. All new appliances, designer paint and ceiling fans. Gas, Trash, and Cable paid. 1-1 \$775, 2 bed \$1050. Call now 231-9888 agent. www.apartmentlocating.com

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Houses
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Broker/Realtor
Aaron Gordy
austinflatfinders.com

512-293-0297



CENTRAL
AustinCool.com
(512)693-7231

360 LOFT

West Downtown Luxury! Concierge, rooftop pool Nightlife at your Doorstep!

AUSTINCOOL.COM

CENTRAL
**OLTOF NEAR
DOWNTOWN**

Large Open Floor Plans, complete remodel, free WiFi in every apartment, 5 Minutes to Downtown!

1/1 ... \$694
2/1... \$775
1/2 OFF 1ST MO. RENT!
Call Team Real Estate for show!

(512) 416-8333
austindowntownliving.com



CENTRAL Wooded traxis heights. Minutes to downtown. Wood floors and cable paid. Walk to SoCo. AustinCool.com 512-693-7231.

CENTRAL \$596 near Downtown Entertainment District! \$299 Total Move In. Free Cable. 512-231-9888
www.apartmentlocating.com

CENTRAL 693-7231 AustinCool.com Downtown elegance, city-views, hardwoods. Rooftop deck, W/D.

CENTRAL 693-7231 AustinCool.com West 6th St. Smaller property. Wood floors, Gas/ cable paid. Free parking, on busline, \$875.

CENTRAL
**RIVERSIDE
WOOD FLOORS -
NEAR DOWNTOWN!**

Recent remodel, all tile and wood flooring, water/wastewater/trash paid.

STUDIO... \$495
1/1... \$555
2/2 \$715
CALL TEAM REAL ESTATE FOR SHOW

(512) 416-8333
austindowntownliving.com



CENTRAL
**SOCO
RESTAURANT /
SHOPPING
DISTRICT**

Courtyard community, backs to Lady Bird hike-and-bike trail. Walking distance to shops/restaurants. Newly Remodeled! Wood floors, island gourmet kitchen. Large units!

2/1... \$1,347
3/2... \$1,481
Call Team Real Estate for show!

(512)416-8333
austindowntownliving.com



CENTRAL
**WOOD FLOORS
NEAR ST EDS
IN 78704**

Large, almost 800sqft 1BDRM! Gas cooking, oversized fenced patio, creek runs through property. Tennis courts, pool, fitness center. \$685
(512) 693-7231
AUSTINCOOL.COM



CENTRAL
**ZILKER PARK
50 FT TO HIKE-
AND-BIKE TRAIL
PRICE DROP!**

STUDIO... \$708
1/1... \$811
2/2... \$1,095
New remodel. Gas cooking. Modern lighting. Wood floor accents. Greenbelt access. 1 exit to downtown! (pet & bicycle friendly)

Call Team Real Estate for show!

(512)416-8333
austindowntownliving.com



CENTRAL AustinCool.com 693-7231 Heart of SoCo, modern open design. W/D included, bright with high ceilings, large windows. Walk-in closet, walk downtown. Includes cable and valet trash, \$1,255.

CENTRAL AustinCool.com 693-7231 Town Lake 3/2, Pool on Lake, minutes to downtown, open Euro design, equal-sized bedrooms, \$1,481.

CENTRAL AustinCool.com 693-7231 Zilker Park Townhome with attached garage. Minutes to Zilker Park via sidewalk! W/D connections. Three-story unit with no one above or below.

CENTRAL Live on 6th St for \$775! Free parking, Cable, Gas, Trash paid. All units remodeled. 1-1 den \$850. www.apartmentlocating.com 512-692-4525

EAST
**EASTSIDE
MANOR RD**

Small courtyard community, gas cooking, wood floors, free Wi-Fi!

1/1... \$699
2/1... \$809
Call Team Real Estate for show!

(512)416-8333
austindowntownliving.com



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FOR LEASE & SALE
Apartments
Houses
Condos
Lofts

Broker/Realtor
Aaron Gordy
www.austinflatfinders.com

512-293-0297



METRO
4bedrooms
\$1099-\$1600
Ron Jon
Apt Mon
512-293-7443

aptmon@hotmail.com
ronjontheapartmentmon.com

NORTH CENTRAL
Bang 4 Your Buck!
1 bed - \$545 676 sq. ft.
1 bed - \$575 725 sq. ft.
2 bed - \$710 1025 sq. ft.
2 bed townhome
\$735 1204 s.f.
All units W/D Conn.
Blue Water Realty
(512) 496-3725
raymondtday@gmail.com

NORTH-CENTRAL
2 Bedroom
\$650 2/2 W/D conns.
Ron Jon
Apt Mon
512-293-7443
ronjontheapartmentmon.com

NORTH CENTRAL Hardwood floors \$505!!! Great downtown access. Best kept secret in Austin. This will be a short termed special on a great apartment so call soon! 1-1 \$505, 2-2 \$714. 512-231-9888. www.apartmentlocating.com

NORTHEAST
**WORKS WITH
EVICTIONS!**
Eff- \$399
1bed- \$499
2bed- \$599
**CALL TODAY, LOOK
TODAY, LEASE TODAY!**
SAME DAY RAY 496-3725

NORTHWEST \$435 Jr 1 BR. 2/2.5 \$735 3/2 \$889, Best price per sq ft in Austin! 512-231-9888 www.apartmentlocating.com

NORTHWEST Heavily wooded, close to shopping and major employers, 1-1.5 Town house with enclosed patio, \$775. W/D Conn, Fitness Center, Tennis Courts, and Boat parking. 512-231-9888 agent. www.apartmentlocating.com

NORTHWEST
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Apartments
Houses
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SOUTH
\$99 Total Moves U in!!
Available Jan 1st.
Bathroom outside bedroom
On bus route
Close to restaurants
1 Bedroom from \$425
2 Bedroom from \$575

Ron Jon
Apt Mon
512-293-7443

SOUTH
3-2 House \$1195
Live in a quaint neighborhood that is set off on its own. No neighbors behind you & one block from your own private park. Barely lived in south Austin home & first time for lease. Fenced backyard yard and patio area with custom stone work. This spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home has an attached garage with workshop area that is perfect for you and your family. This home is located in a quiet family-friendly neighborhood and is minutes away from Southpark Meadows shopping center.
Raymond Day
Blue Water Realty
(512) 496-3725
www.bluewateraustin.com

SOUTH AustinCool.com 693-7231 Greenbelt trail at door, W/D incl, walk to shops/cafe-cool 78704 \$779.

SOUTH
3bedrooms
\$799 W/D connections, close to IH 35
\$1,000 Gas Cooking, Bus Route, 2 Minutes from Downtown.
Ron Jon
Apt Mon
512-293-7443
aptmon@hotmail.com
ronjontheapartmentmon.com

SOUTH
**ARTIST/MUSICIAN-
FRIENDLY
COMMUNITY**

Warehouse-style apartment, polished concrete floor, exposed metal accents, gas cooking, modern lighting.
2/1... \$749
STUDIO... \$599
4/2... \$1239
Call Team Real Estate for show!
(512)416-8333
austindowntownliving.com



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Apartments
Houses
Condos
Lofts
Broker/Realtor
Aaron Gordy
austinflatfinders.com
512-293-0297



SOUTH AustinCool.com 693-7231 Free cable with HBO & internet. Big dogs OK! Saltwater pool, \$670.

SOUTH
Wake up fishing or having coffee around your private Pond.
Fitness room
Cascading pools
Close to down town
Private patios
Washer/Dryer connections
\$559 - \$799
Ron Jon
Apt Mon
512-293-7443
aptmon@hotmail.com
ronjontheapartmentmon.com

SOUTH AustinCool.com 693-7231 New SoCo loft-style, open design with island kitchen, stainless appliances, brushed nickel finishes, 10ft ceilings, large oval tub, W/D included. Attached free parking garage, ground floor retail, \$1,155.



SOUTH AustinCool.com 693-7231 South Congress shaded by 100 year old oaks, tranquil pool & tennis courts. Full size W/D included. 1/1 \$750, 2/2 \$925.

SOUTH/CENTRAL
1 Bedroom \$549
2 Bedroom \$699
Resort style pool,
Hot tub,
Fitness room,
Bus route on property,
Fast Move-Ins

Ron Jon-Broker
512-293-7443
aptmon@hotmail.com
ronjontheapartmentmon.com

SOUTH/CENTRAL
Free Cable is back!!!
Skate and City Park close by
Bus Routes on property
Two sparkling pools
Onsite laundry
That's right 2-1's from \$641

Ron Jon-Broker
512-293-7443
aptmon@hotmail.com

SOUTHEAST \$569/mo all bills paid! I'm moving out of town for a job and need my apartment leased ASAP! If interested please call Niki for more details. 512-680-8372....if I don't answer leave a message!



Same Day Ray
Call Ray Day 496-3725 bluewateraustin.com
Call Today. Look Today. Lease Today.
FREE SERVICE
IMMED. MOVE-INS, 1ST TIME RENTERS, HOUSES & DUPLEXES, BIG DOGS, BAD CREDIT & BROKEN LEASES
South/Central
1B \$525 Wood floors, 670sqft, walk to downtown
1B \$425 1Month Free, 555sqft
2B \$600 wood floors, bike to downtown
2-2 \$575 1Month Free, Cheap Rent!
2-2 \$720 Wood floors 1026sqft, free trash/water
3-2 House \$1195 1st time for lease
North/Central
1B \$497 Wood floors, salt water pool.
1B \$580 676 sqft w/d, Great location!
2-2 \$750 1036sqft w/d-big as a house
2B \$850 True gem, walk to light rail.

RonJon the Apt Mon
FREE APT LOCATING
Keeping Austin weirder one day at a time
studios: \$495 Water Paid close to downtown or 2 weeks Free
\$600 Heart of Austin 78704 Fast Move In
1-1 \$425 \$99 Total Move In Jan 1
\$525 \$99 Total Move In
\$530 2 Weeks free ez Qualifier
\$549 Resort Living Hot Tub Fitness, close to everything
\$559 Yes Private Patios and a fishable POND!!!
\$570 ALL BILLS PAID \$99 Total Move in LOFT
2-1 \$570 \$99 total Move In Avail Jan 1st
\$641 free cable bus rt close to downtown
\$700 Hardwood floors 78704
2-2 \$575 \$99 Total Move in Avail Jan 1st
2-2 \$599 Washer Dryer Conns
3-2 \$799 Washer Dryer Conns
3-2 \$861 1200 Sq Ft Free Cable Bus Rt
CALL FOR MORE LISTINGS!
Specializing in immediate move-in's, cheap rent & difficult situations. No credit, bad credit, 1st time renters, co-signers no problem, mon!! Fast, Friendly & Best of ALL FREE!
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Unique apartments, lofts, and downtown condos for sale and lease. If it's out there, we can show it.
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693-7231 AUSTINCOOL.COM
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Your free source for access to thousands of local listings. Buying? See all condo, home, and loft options at austincool.com/sales
360 CONDOS • SPRING • BRIDGES ON THE PARK • NOKONAH • AUSTONIAN • FOUR SEASONS AND MORE!

APARTMENT/ CONDO cont.

SOUTHWEST AustinCool.com 693-7231 Heavily wooded and hilly park setting, large decks overlooking Barton Creek greenbelt. Big dogs! Earthy setting, remodeled kitchens, Studio \$663.

SOUTHWEST
AustinCool.com
(512)693-7231

UPSCALE 1/1 \$770
2/2 \$935
3 BDRM \$1,130

with W/D connections,
indoor
full-size basketball court,
huge fitness center with
classes.

Sunset Valley area

AUSTINCOOL.COM
**AUSTIN
COOL
PROPERTIES**

SOUTHWEST
FOR LEASE & SALE
Apartments
Houses
Condos
Lofts
Broker/Realtor
Aaron Gordy
www.austinflatfind-
ers.com
512-293-0297



SOUTHWEST AustinCool.com 693-7231 Luxury on canyon park land. Wet weather waterfalls and swimming holes, minutes to downtown. Lavish condo construction with soundproofing. Large updated kitchen with gas range, oversized bathrooms, bright with large windows. Huge 2/2, \$1,123 includes cable and valet trash.

New

WEST

For Rent & Sale!
Houses
Duplexes
Apartments
Lofts & Condos
Blue Water Realty
(512) 496-3725

DUPLEX/HOUSES

BUDA 2 Bed/1 Bath. Detached studio. Big Yard. 406 Loop St. \$875/mo. Lanier Realty LLC - Cindy Spears 825-4663

SOUTHWEST \$1500 lease, 1500 sec betw Bowie HS & Mopac 4 bed/2 Bath FPGar. tile except in 3 bed ask for Sue 512-291-4696

ROOMMATES

METRO ROOMMATES.COM. Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: <http://www.Roommates.com> (AAN CAN)

SOUTH Small furnished room in mature household available for employed person. Nice kitchen, washer/dryer, family neighborhood near bus, only \$399. No note 770.4111

FOR SALE

CEDAR PARK

AustinCool.com/sales

SEARCH 11,000
AUSTIN SALES
LISTINGS!

FREE BUYER REP.

(512) 693-7231
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COOL
PROPERTIES**

CENTRAL

DOWNTOWN LOFT
EXPERTS

Starting at \$190K!

Wood, stainless appliances
& more!

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All downtown listings at:

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AUSTINCOOL.COM

CENTRAL Only 1+ mile from downtown. Virtually new 3/2, 3 story built 2007. 2 car garage, stainless kitch, granite, wood floors. Has it all! Immaculate & beautiful. \$199,700 for 1,420SF. Another incredible Condo Joe deal! For pics text "216836" to 44133 www.CondoJoe.com 203-4100

FORECLOSURE

FORECLOSURE
SALE

208 Unit Apartment Complex
Waco, Texas.

Property:

Robinson Garden Apart-
ments

2724 Robinson Drive

Waco, TX 76706

Terms:

All Cash/30-day closing

Unstated Minimum

Time and date of sale:

Open House:

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Friday, February 10, 2012

From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Check-in at Apartment Office

10:00 a.m. Local Time

Sale will be held at:

(Bottom of Stairs to Wash-
ington

Street Entrance) McLennan
County Courthouse

501 Washington Avenue
Waco, TX 76701

Letter of Credit:

A \$1,108,163 Letter of Credit
(LoC) is required at closing

to insure repairs

To submit a bid:

Bids may be submitted in
writing or made orally at the
foreclosure sale.

Interested parties must
obtain a bid kit before they
can bid.

After receipt of bid kit ad-
dress questions to:

robert.h.lauey@hud.gov

Ft. Worth HUD MFDP Center

(817) 978-5819

Earnest money to bid:

\$100,000

Download the Bid Kit & see

photos at:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_

or request by phone by con-
tacting the Realty Specialist

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING

AND URBAN DEVELOP-
MENT

Note: This advertisement is

placed by HUD and

does not constitute the legal

notice of foreclosure sale.

FORECLOSURE

LENDER ORDERED

LAND SALE!

SATURDAY JANUARY 28!

10AC ONLY \$79,900

(Was \$149,900)

Lots sold on first come, first

served basis.

- 30 mile views

Towering oaks, historic stone

walls, gated stone entrance,

asphalt roads, infrastructure

complete, low taxes, choose

your builder, build when

ready.

EXCELLENT FINANCING,

CALL NOW

1-800-511-2430

Ask for Ext. 60

LAKE MEDINA Home Sites,
Mobile Home Sites, RV
Sites, No Credit OK, \$124 a
month buys deeded property
at Medina Lake, Bandera TX
830-796-3038

NORTH Very nice! 3/2/2 near
183/McNeil, new/roof, new/
ac, freshly painted inside/out-
side and new flooring, \$139k
956-266-9692, owner/agent.

NORTH Last one sold fast!
Have another, with master
down. Contemporary energy
efficient 3/2.5 townhome
w/2 car garage & a private
fenced landscaped yard w/
SunSetter motorized awning.
Gated community off Parmar.
\$154,000 for 1,314 SF. Another
incredible Condo Joe deal!
For pics text "216836" to
44133 www.CondoJoe.com
203-4100

NORTHWEST One of the
best values in NW Hills.
Freshly redone w/real wood
floors, crown molding, "no
popcorn" flat ceilings. HOA
dues are a deal!!! Everything
about this one is affordable!
\$119,700 for 2/2 off Far
West. Another incredible
Condo Joe deal! For pics
text "216837" to 44133 www.
CondoJoe.com 203-4100

SOUTH

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY 2-4

FABULOUS, FUNKY
50's

1907 Forest Glade.

10 minutes to

downtown, close to

Central Market. 3/2

ready for move-in!

Large corner lot,

\$225,000.

Call Kris Hyatt,

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com

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454-5766 more than a list

buy/sell/trade

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Clothing, stickers, patches
pins, jewelry, corsets.

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• www.secretoktober.com •
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MOVING SALE Electronics,
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wares, tools, more. Sat-Sun
Jan 21-22, 9AM-4PM 8710 Piney
Creek Bend

GENERAL

ACREAGE Very private 14 acres
with lake and incredible canyon
views located in hills between
Fredericksburg and Comfort TX.
Paved county road access with
power nearby. Call 281-455-7006
or 830-995-4090 for details.

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Car/Truck. Running or Not! Top
Dollar Paid. We Come To You!
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Monthly sales AKC reg. m/f

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Cell: 832-520-9540

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WORLD! Wanted: Super
Homes for our Super Dogs! For
Adoptions call Utopia Animal
Rescue Ranch 830-589-7544 or
check out our dogs at :

www.utopiarescue.com

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ALL

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...WICKED...

...UT BASKETBALL...

...AUSTIN RODEO...

...TOM PETTY...

...EXPERIENCE HENDRIX...

...LES MISERABLES...

...LORETTA LYNN...

...JOHN LEGUIZAMO...

...RODNEY CARRINGTON...

...SPURS BASKETBALL...

...VAN HALEN...

*...LADYSMITH BLACK MAM-
BAZO...*

...MEGADETH/MOTORHEAD...

...GABRIEL IGLESIAS...

...PUSCIFIER...

...ANDREA BOCELLI...

...KEB MO...

...SNOW PATROL...

...MOULIN ROUGE...

...ANTHONY BOURDAIN...

...TOMMY EMMANUEL...

...GLADYS KNIGHT...

...RADIOHEAD...

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LEGAL

ALIAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION AUSTIN CHRONICLE THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: JUSTIN JENKINS Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your Attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say ator before 10 o'clock A.M. of ?

CAUSE NUMBER: C-1-CV-11-009859, filed in COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1

C CRAFT VS J JENKINS

Filed in COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1 (Travis County Courthouse, corner of Tenth Street and Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas), on September 21, 2011.

STYLED: C CRAFT VS J JENKINS

NATURE OF SUIT: MOTOR VEHICLE DAMAGES

Given under my hand and seal of Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk on December 06, 2011.

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. BOX 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/ C SANDOVAL

Plaintiff Attorney:

GREGORY LENN REED

4100 DUVAL

BLDG 1 STE 200

AUSTIN, TX 78759

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit for RARE Hospitality International, Inc. dba LongHorn Steakhouse #5423 to be located at 4809 W Highway 290, Sunset Valley, Travis County, Texas 78735. Officers of said company are: William White, President/Treasurer; Carl Richmond, Vice President; Joseph Kern, Vice President/Secretary; Colleen Hunter, Assistant Secretary; Douglas Wentz, Assistant Secretary.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION AUSTIN CHRONICLE THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-11-003501 To: MATTHEW GOODSSELL D/B/A AUSTIN WELDING Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED.

You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say ator before 10 o'clock A.M. of ?

Monday the FEBRUARY 13, 2012, and answer the PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED PETITION AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE Of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 126TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on DECEMBER 28, 2011, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-11-003501, in which JIM THOMPSON D/B/A ALL AMERICAN ELECTRIC Plaintiff(s), and MATTHEW GOODSSELL D/B/A AUSTIN WELDING AND GREATER AUSTIN MERCHANTS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION Defendant(s), the nature of which said suit is as follows:

10.155 ACT OF K SUBD PLUS .425AC OF VAC STREET

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 28, 2011.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse

1000 Guadalupe,

P.O. BOX 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

PREPARED BY: JACKSON LA SHAY

REQUESTED BY:

WILLIAM B GAMMON

2525 WALLINGWOOD DR., STE. 600

AUSTIN, TX 78746

BUSINESS PHONE: (512)

472-8909

FAX: (888) 545-4279

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-12-000136

To: BRANDON LA'MONT WILSON and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN

SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COM-MANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 345TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF CHILD AND TRAVIS COUNTY STANDING ORDER OF TIE'RAH DOMONIQUE WILLIAMS Petitioner(s), filed in said court on JANUARY 9, 2012, against BRANDON LA'MONT WILSON Respondent(s), and said suit being entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF BRAELYNN DA'NAE WILSON, A CHILD" the nature of which suit is a request ORIGINAL PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF CHILD

The Name, Birth date, and Place of Birth of said is as

follows:

BRAELYN DA'NAE WILSON

JANUARY 7, 2008

AUSTIN, TX

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, January 10, 2012.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse

1000 Guadalupe,

P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ IRENE SILVA, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

LAWRENCE J MORGAN

500 W 16TH ST, SUITE 120

AUSTIN, TX 78701

BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 391-0950

FAX: (512) 391-0952

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF PAOLO ERMANNO MINISSI Deceased, No. C-1-PB-11-001935 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. SELENA PANG MINISSI and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on January 11, 2012, an (1) Application to Probate Copy of Holographic Will and for Appointment of Independent Administrator with Will Annexed and Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration; or, in the Alternative (2) Determination of Heirship and for Appointment of Independent Administrator and Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said PAOLO ERMANNA MINISSI, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on January 11, 2012.

Dana DeBeauvoir

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. BOX 149325

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/ O. RUIZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF REBECCA DELGADO AVILA Deceased, No. C-1-PB-11-002063 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

DANA DOMINIQUE AZURIN The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on December 27, 2011, an Application to De

termine Heirship & Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said REBECCA DELGADO AVILA, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on December 29, 2011.

Dana DeBeauvoir

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. BOX 149325

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/ M. LIMON

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA JEAN KELLY Deceased, No. C-1-PB-11-001737 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

ROBERT CRAIG BUTT The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on October 20, 2011, an Application to Determine Heirship & Application for Letters of Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said PATRICIA JEAN KELLY, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on October 24, 2011.

Dana DeBeauvoir

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. BOX 149325

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/ M. LIMON

D-1-GV-00-003182 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES BY VIRTUE OF a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53RD District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2011 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-00-003182, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health are plaintiffs, and Stanley C. Lobianco, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns & successors of the Estate of Stanley C. LoBianco are defendant(s),

in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$11,045.54** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53RD District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 12, 2011.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2011, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 7th day of February, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 5030, Highland Lake Estates, Section 5, Plat No. 51/75, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 6250, Page 1928 and Volume 6637, Page 1917 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$11,045.54** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of December, 2011.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ G.L. Blaylock DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHAT-EVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-1001369 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 126TH District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of December, 2011 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-10-001369, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health, Travis county Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and Richard Davis and Frost National Bank (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$3,022.83** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 126TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on February 11, 2011.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2011, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 7th day of February, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

I, on the 30th day of December, 2011, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 7th day of February, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 8012, Bar-K Ranches Plat 8, Plat No. 58/71, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in document number 2005094062 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made

by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$3,022.83** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of December, 2011.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ G.L. Blaylock DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHAT-EVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-302541 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of December, 2011 in a certain cause numbered GV-302541, wherein Austin Community College, Leander Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 are plaintiffs, and Sally Finley Cox, Peggy Jean Marbut (In Rem Only), if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Peggy Jean Marbut and State of Texas/Bond Forfeiture Section (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$15,872.40** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 22, 2011.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2011, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 7th day of February, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 14-4, Leander Hills, Plat No. 83/109A as described in document number 2004142583 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$15,872.40** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of December, 2011.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ G.L. Blaylock DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR

SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHAT-EVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

HUD # 4957403242 TS#11-12177-21 NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE WHEREAS, on 01/26/2006, a certain (Deed of Trust) was executed by Jewell C. Whittington, as Trustor, in favor of Seattle Mortgage Company, as beneficiary, and Gary J. Sommerfelt, as Trustee and was Recorded on 02/08/2006 as Instrument No. 2006022904, in the office of the Travis County, Texas Recorder, and WHEREAS, the Deed of Trust was insured by the UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, (the Secretary) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and WHEREAS, the beneficial interest in the Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment recorded on 02/17/2010, as Instrument # 2010022533 in the office of the Travis County, Texas Recorder, and WHEREAS, a default has been made by reason of failure to pay all sums due under the Deed of Trust, pursuant to Paragraph 9 Subsection (i) of said deed of Trust and WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust to be immediately due and payable, NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to power vesting in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of us as Foreclosure Commissioner", notice is hereby given that on 02/07/2012 @ 12:00 to 03:00 pm local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with following described premises ("Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder: Commonly known as: 1809 Corona Drive, Austin, TX 78723 More thoroughly described as Lot 10, Block P, DELWOOD 4 EAST SEC. 2, an Addition in Travis County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Book 8, Page 8, of the Plat Records of Travis County, Texas. The sale will be held at the following location: THE PLACE OF SALE SHALL BE IN THE AREA DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF SUCH COUNTY PURSUANT TO 51.002 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY CODE, AS THE PLACE WHERE FORECLOSURE SALES ARE TO TAKE PLACE, (IF NOT SUCH PLACE IS SO DESIGNATED, THE SALE SHALL BE IN THE AREA WHERE THIS NOTICE OF SALE IS POSTED), IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS. Per The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development the estimated opening bid will be \$177,480.67. There will be no pro-ration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before the closing, his prorata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. When making a bid, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling ten percent (10%) of the Secretary's estimated bid amount, in the form of a cashier's check made payable to the Foreclosure Commissioner Cimarron Trustee Services. Each oral bid

LEGAL cont.

need not be accompanied by a deposit. If the successful bid is an oral, a deposit of \$17,748.06 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a cashier's or certified check. If the Secretary is the high bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveyancing fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them. The Secretary may grant an extension of time with which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 9-day increments for a fee of \$600.00 paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of certified or cashier's check made payable to the commissioner. If the high bidder closed the sale prior to the expiration period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due. If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the Foreclosure Commissioner after consultation with the HUD Field Office representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The Commissioner may, at the direction of HUD Field Office Representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder to an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder. There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as proved herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant. The amount that must be paid by the Mortgagor, to stop the sale prior to the scheduled sale date is \$177,330.67 as of 02/06/2012, PLUS all other amounts that are due under the mortgage agreement. Plus advertising costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices and for the Foreclosure Commissioner's attendance at the sale, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents. Plus a commission for the Foreclosure commissioner and all other costs incurred in the connection with the foreclosure prior to reinstatement. Date: October 26, 2011 FORECLOSURE COMMISSIONER: CIMARRON SERVICE CORP. OF NEVADA

719 14TH STREET MODESTO, CA 95354 Telephone No. (209) 544-9658 Facsimile No. (209) 544-6119 CATHEY E. LATNER, Vice President
Ad #:16475: 2012-01-06 2012-01-13, 2012-01-20

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS.
GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTH-SIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX. 78745.
1998 DODGE 4B3AU52NX-WE115683

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicle(s) will be sold at Public Auction if not claimed within 30 days.
Garagekeeper:
A&A WRECKER AND RECOVERY, LLC
2963 MANOR ROAD
AUSTIN, TX 78722
PH: (512) 670-7578
1987 Mercury Sable, Lic# BX8X604 (MI), VIN: 1MEFM-5551HG616863

NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL OUT-OF-DISTRICT MEETING PLACE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 25
To the residents and taxpayers of Williamson County Municipal Utility District No. 25 (the District), and to all the persons interested in the meetings of the Board of Directors of such District:
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the District, at a meeting held January 11, 2012, established an additional meeting place outside the boundaries of the District at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 1108 Lavaca, Suite 510, Austin, Texas 78701.
Said meeting place is hereby declared to be a public place and open to the public. All residents and taxpayers of the District and all other interested persons are hereby invited to attend any meetings of the Board of Directors at such location and other locations previously established by the Board of Directors as meeting places of the District.
/s/ Secretary, Board of Directors

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATIONS Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulations:
RESTRICT PARKING ALONG WEST CURB ON RIVER PLACE BOULEVARD FROM SUN TREE COVE TO EAGLE TRACE TRAIL.
Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposed action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing. Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CUBESMART hereby gives notice of Public Sale under the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. This sale will be held on **January 31, 2012 at 12:30 P.M.** at the YOUR STORAGE SOLUTION located at 12506 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, Texas. This sale will continue to each designated address location listed below after the completion of the beginning sale. This sale is being held to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. Everything sold is purchased "as is" "where is" for cash. The items in the unit are furniture and household goods unless otherwise indicated. CUBESMART reserves the right to set a minimum bid, refuse any bid, or to cancel any Public Sale that is advertised. Announcements made the day of the sale take precedence over any printed materials related to the sale.
Your Storage Solution
12506 N Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78753
Ralph Sauls, Unit C197
Frank Lucio, Unit A195
Robert Rodgers, Unit B045
Jamie Rafferty, C188
CubeSmart #751
610 E. Stassney Lane
Austin, TX 78745
Lisa Swain, Unit 1202

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is 12:30pm, February 6, 2012. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash at the time of auction. Cleanup

and removal deposit may be required. Seller reserves right to withdraw property from sale or not accept any bidder. Property will be sold in entire contents of each individual storage unit. Property includes contents of spaces of following tenants: Andrew Adair, Josepha Gonzalez, Benjamin Lyon, Charles Sanders, James Green, Jeremy Crow.
Property being sold includes the following: Welder, generator, tools, bedroom and living room furniture, insulation, vacuum cleaner, toys, dEcor, dishes, shoes, TV, freezer, lawn mower, fertilizer, rugs, fish tank.
Contact Lockaway Storage 9910 Slaughter Creek Dr., Austin, TX, 78748. 512-282-7807

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, A-A-A Storage Round Rock will hold a public auction of property at 3501 Sunrise Rd. Round Rock, TX 78665 to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will begin at 11am on Feb 04, 2012 at A-A-A Storage Round Rock at 3501 Sunrise Rd, Round Rock, TX 78665. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Property includes the contents of the spaces of the following tenants - Jacquelyne A. Villegas, bins, toys, tools, boxes, misc. household items, Marie D. Ramirez, paint supplies, bins, misc., and Xium Corporation, computers, office furniture, janitorial equipment,
cubicles steel shelving, and pallets of unopened freight. Property is to be sold to the highest CASH bidder. Clean Up/Removal deposit is required. Contact A-A-A Storage Round Rock, 3501 Sunrise Rd., Round Rock, TX 78665. (512) 310-0001

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Compass Van Lines of Austin will hold a public auction of personal property at 9201 Brown Lane, Suite 150, Austin, TX 78754 to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will begin at 10am on Feb 15, 2012. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Property of five tenants will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Property includes household goods comprising of household furniture, massage table, electronics, and household appliances of the following previous tenants: Lu Flowers, Meredith Blevans, Shamara Flora, James Dudley, and Jamie Giddings. Clean up/Removal deposit is required.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to chapter 59; Texas property code; American Mini Storage will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord lien.
The sale is January 31, 2012 9:30am at 1905 East William Cannon, Austin, TX 78644. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. A 50.00 clean up fee will be required-all spaces contain certain household items, furniture and boxes unless otherwise noted. Property includes contents from units of the following tenants: Vanessa Alvarado, Elia Flores, Gloria Hernandez, John Skaggs, Luis Ortiz, Robert Flores, Misty Zubiate and Ruben Gonzales.
www.twauctions.com
Terry Waters #16498

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to chapter 59; Texas property code; American Mini Storage will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord lien.
The sale is January 31, 2012 10:30am at 2201 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., Austin, TX 78741. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. A 50.00 clean up fee will be required-all spaces contain certain household items, furniture and boxes unless otherwise noted. Property includes contents from units of the following tenants: Monica Garcia, Mariano J. Sanchez, Hamish Kinneair, Luis Vallejo, John Velez, Kasey Bercegaay, Joshua Beard, Raymond Stalik, Veronica Ramirez, Matthew Agan, Yolanda Martinez and Andrew C.

Graham.
www.twauctions.com
Terry Waters #16498
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to chapter 59; Texas property code; Spare Space Storage will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord lien. The sale is January 31, 2012 11:45am at 9420 Spectrum Drive, Austin, TX 78717. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. A 50.00 clean up fee will be required-all spaces contain certain household items, furniture and boxes unless otherwise noted. Property includes contents from units of the following tenants: James Hancox, Colleen M Martinez, Patrick Sullivan, and Bret T Wilkerson.
www.twauctions.com
Terry Waters #16498

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE to be held at AusTex Towing 201 E. Braker Ln, Austin, TX 78753 on 1/17/12 at 9AM. Call (512) 836-7443 for more info.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **January 25, 2012** Ace Auction Company Auctioneers, TX-16453 Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code (Chapter 576 of the 68th Legislature), beginning at 12:00 pm at Extra Space Storage 6512 McNeil Dr. Austin, TX 78729.
512-250-9879
The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances.
6512 McNeil Dr. 512-250-9879
Unit F110- Hussain Farrell
Unit E324- Hussain Alkhalf
6412 Burnet Rd. 512-419-0647
Unit 2088- Michael Zampana
Unit 2019- Sally Kim Hood
Unit 4159- Teresa Moring
Unit 3039- CAPTA Inc.
Unit 3060- Robert Walker
Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE: D1GN08001206 By virtue of an Writ of Execution issued by the clerk of the District Court 200 Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, November 30, 2011, in cause numbered D1GN08001206, styled CHAD SCHIMPF and MICHELLE SCHIMPF versus JEANNIE TOLBERT on a judgment rendered against JEANNIE TOLBERT; I did on November 30, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., levy upon as the property of JEANNIE TOLBERT the following described real property:
11.057 ACRES OF LAND OUT OF THE GREENBURY GATES SURVEY NO. 63, ABSTRACT NO. 315 IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, COMPRISING THAT TRACT CONVEYED AS 11.057 ACRES TO JEANNIE TOLBERT BY DEED RECORDED IN VOLUME 13170, PAGE 1406, INCLUDING THE HENDERSON HOMES DOUBLE-WIDE MANUFACTURED HOME BEARING SERIAL NUMBER(S) PH3220LA2584 A/B AND H.U.D. NUMBER(S) NTA1145940 / NTA 1145941 OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS.
On February 07, 2011, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., beginning at 10:00 A.M., at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas, I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of JEANNIE TOLBERT in and

to the real property described above.
Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, December 21, 2011
Bruce Elfant,
Constable Precinct 5
Travis County, Texas
/s/ by SENIOR DEPUTY ALAN REDD, Deputy
Notice to Bidders: You are buying whatever interest, if any, the Debtor has in the property. Purchase of the Debtor's interest in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interests held by other persons. There are no warranties, express or implied, regarding the property being sold, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.
Bidders shall present an unexpired written statement issued to the person in the manner prescribed by Section 34.015, Tax Code, showing that the Travis County Assessor-Collector has determined that there are no delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by the person. In addition, an individual may not bid on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.
Lots 1 & 2 of Crestview North Addition, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas, according to the plat recorded in Document No. 200600380 of the Official Public Records of Travis County, Texas of the map or plat records of Travis County, Texas.
On February 07, 2012, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas, I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of SELECT INVESTMENTS, LLC in and to the real property described above.
Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, January 06, 2012.
Bruce Elfant,
Constable Precinct 5
Travis County, Texas
/s/ by Alan J. Redd, Senior Deputy
Notice to Bidders: You are buying whatever interest, if any, the Debtor has in the property. Purchase of the Debtor's interest in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interests held by other persons. There are no warranties, express or implied, regarding the property being sold, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.
Bidders shall present an unexpired written statement issued to the person in the manner prescribed by Section 34.015, Tax Code, showing that the Travis County Assessor-Collector has determined that there are no delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by the person. In addition, an individual may not bid on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.
Lots 1 & 2 of Crestview North Addition, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas, according to the plat recorded in Document No. 200600380 of the Official Public Records of Travis County, Texas of the map or plat records of Travis County, Texas.
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Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, January 06, 2012.
Bruce Elfant,
Constable Precinct 5
Travis County, Texas
/s/ by Alan J. Redd, Senior Deputy
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Bidders shall present an unexpired

pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

Claims may be addressed in care of the representative's attorney, as follows:

James M. Simons
c/o Edsam M. Ingram
1601 Rio Grande, Suite 520
Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED this 10th day of January, 2012.

/s/ Edsam M. Ingram

Attorney for the Representative

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOSE BEITIA ATECA, Deceased, were issued on January 12, 2012, in Cause NO. C-1-PB-11-001733, in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to AGUSTIN BEITIA, as Independent Executor.

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Travis County, Texas. The post office address is:

Estate of Jose Beitia Ateca
c/o Agustín Beitia, Independent Executor
217 Camperdown Elm Drive
Austin, Texas 78748

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ Deborah Green

Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LAWRENCE CRANBERG, a/k/a Lawrence M. Cranberg, a/k/a Lawrence Maurice Cranberg, deceased, were issued on January 12, 2012, in Docket No. C-1-PB-11-001981, pending in the Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to CHARLOTTE MOUNT CRANBERG, Independent Executor.

The residence for the Independent Executor is in Travis County, Texas. The mailing address is: c/o A. Lynn Tiemann

Thompson & Tiemann LLP
Attorney at Law
5203 Pony Chase
Austin, Texas 78727

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 12th day of January, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
THOMPSON & TIEMANN LLP

P.O. Box 201988
Austin, Texas 78720-1988

(512) 335-6800 Telephone
(512) 335-2088 Facsimile

/s/ A. Lynn Tiemann

Attorney and Counselor

State Bar No. 20021500

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARILYN STILES SHOEMAKER, were issued on January 5, 2012, in Docket No. C-1-PB-11-001908, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County,

Texas, to:

WILLIAM ISOM SHOEMAKER

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Austin, Texas, and the post office address is as follows:

c/o AKINS, NOWLIN & PREWITT, L.L.P.

1516 E. Palm Valley Blvd., B-2
P.O. Box 249

Round Rock, Texas 78680-0249

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 5th day of January, 2012.

AKINS, NOWLIN & PREWITT, L.L.P.

1516 E. Palm Valley Blvd., B-2
P.O. Box 249

Round Rock, Texas 78680

(512) 244-0001

FAX: (512) 244-9733

By: /s/ Wesley Prewitt

State Bar No. 24007872

ATTORNEYS FOR ESTATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Miles M. Manhold, Deceased, were issued on December 6, 2011, in Cause Number C-1-PB-11-001819, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to: Jason M. Manhold.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o The Barger Law Firm, PLLC

433 Kitty Hawk Road, Ste. 221
Universal City, Texas 78148

Dated the 12th day of January, 2012.

/s/ Jason W. Barger

SBN: 24033655

433 Kitty Hawk Road, Ste. 221
Universal City, Texas 78148

210.200.8519

210.468.1886 (f)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Nelson Nieves, were issued on January 10, 2012, in Docket No. C-1-PB-11-002047, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: Barbara Lynn Nieves

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Pflugerville, Texas, and the post office address is for notice is as follows:

c/o AKINS, NOWLIN & PREWITT, L.L.P.

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P.O. Box 249

Round Rock, Texas 78680-0249

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 10th day of January, 2012.

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Round Rock, Texas 78680

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FAX: (512) 244-9733

By: /s/ Rick Akins

State Bar No. 00962200

ATTORNEYS FOR ESTATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patrick Earl Wildey, Deceased, were issued on the 12th day of January, 2012, in Cause No.

C-1-PB-11-002014, pending in the Statutory Probate Court, Travis County, Texas, to: Tiffany Lee Carter.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned on behalf of the Independent Executor within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Tiffany Lee Carter, Independent Executor

c/o: Steven B. Tredennick

Attorney at Law

4028 Sable Oaks Drive

Round Rock, Texas 78664

DATED the 12th day of January, 2012.

/s/ Steven B. Tredennick

Attorney for Tiffany Lee Carter

State Bar No.: 20206500

4028 Sable Oaks Drive

Round Rock, Texas 78664

Telephone: (512) 246-6865

Facsimile: (512) 246-1094

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William C. Mitchell, Deceased, were issued on January 12, 2012, in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001963, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Lisa C. Barron and Laura A. Ruth aka Laura A. Harvey.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Estate of William C. Mitchell

c/o: Richard L. Welch

Attorney at Law

8140 N. Mopac Expressway

Westpark IV, Suite 260

Austin, Texas 78759

DATED the 12th day of January, 2012.

/s/ Richard L. Welch

Attorney for Lisa C. Barron
State Bar No.: 21125700

8140 N. Mopac Expressway
Westpark IV, Suite 260

Austin, Texas 78759

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February 06, 2012 12:30 PM
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Tiffany Clemons - Queen mattress set, washer and dryer, big screen tv, chest of drawers, microwave, kitchen ware.

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for Jan. 20-26

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Here's one of my favorite quotes from American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson: "I hate quotations. Tell me what you think." The current astrological omens suggest that this is an excellent message for you to heed. It's crucial for you to know your own mind and speak your own thoughts. It's smart to trust your own instincts and draw on your own hard-won epiphanies. For best results, don't just be skeptical of the conventional wisdom; be cautious about giving too much credence to every source of sagacity and expertise. Try to define your own positions rather than relying on theories you've read about and opinions you've heard.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Why did Mark Gibbons strap a washing machine to his back and then climb to the top of Mount Snowdown in Wales? He did it to raise charity money for the Kenyan Orphan Project. If, in the coming weeks, you try anything as crazy as he did, Pisces, make sure it's for an equally worthy cause. Don't you dare take on a big challenge simply to make people feel sorry for you or to demonstrate what a first-class martyr you can be. On the other hand, I'm happy to say that you could stir up a lot of good mojo by wandering into previously off-limits zones as you push past the limitations people expect you to honor.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The Macy's ad I saw in the newspaper had a blaring headline: "Find Your Magic 2.0." The items it touted to help us discover our upgraded and more deluxe sense of magic were luxurious diamond rings. The cheapest was \$2,150. I'm going to try to steer you in another direction in your quest to get in touch with Magic 2.0, Aries. I do believe you are in an excellent position to do just that, but only if you take a decidedly nonmaterialistic approach. What does your intuition tell you about how to hook up with a higher, wilder version of the primal mojo?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The U.S. Constitution has survived 224 years, longer than the constitution of any other nation on the planet. But one of America's founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, might have had a problem with that. He believed our constitution should be revised every 19 years. Personally, I share Jefferson's view, and I would apply that same principle of regular reinvention to all of us as individuals – although I think it should be far more frequently than every 19 years. How long has it been since you've amended or overhauled your own rules to live by, Taurus? Judging by the astrological omens, I suspect it's high time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "It is respectable to have no illusions – and safe – and profitable and dull," said author Joseph Conrad. Taking our cue from his liberating derision, I propose that we protest the dullness of having no illusions. Let's decry the blah, gray sterility that comes from entertaining no fantastic fantasies and unreasonable dreams. How boring it is to have such machinelike mental hygiene! For this one week, Gemini, I urge you to celebrate your crazy ideas. Treasure and adore your wacky beliefs. Study all those irrational and insane urges running around your mind to see what you can learn about your deep, dark unconsciousness. (P.S.: But I'm not saying you should act on any of those phantasms, at least not now. Simply be amused by them.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you were a medieval knight going into battle with a full suit of armor, the advantage you had from the metal's protection was offset by the extra energy it took to haul around so much extra weight. In fact, historians say this is one reason that a modest force of English soldiers defeated a much larger French army at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. The Frenchmen's armor was much bulkier, and by the time they slogged through muddy fields to reach their enemy, they were too tired to fight at peak intensity. The moral of the story, as far as you're concerned: To win a great victory in the coming weeks, shed as many of your defense mechanisms and as much of your emotional baggage as possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): One way or another, you will be more famous in the coming months than you've ever been before. That might mean you'll become better known or more popular ... or it could take a different turn. To tease out the nuances, let's draw on Naomi Shihab Nye's poem "Famous": "The river is famous to the fish./The loud voice is famous to silence,/which knew it would inherit the earth/before anybody said so./The cat sleeping on the fence is famous to the birds/watching him from the birdhouse./The tear is famous, briefly, to the cheek./The idea you carry close to your bosom/is famous to your bosom." (Read the whole poem here: [bit.ly/FamousToWhom](#).)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Three famous actresses formed the British Anti-Cosmetic Surgery League last year. Rachel Wiese, Kate Winslet, and Emma Thompson say they believe people should be happy with the physical appearance that nature gave them. Is it rude of me to note that unlike most of the rest of us, those three women were born gorgeous? It's easy for them to promise not to mess with their looks. Do you ever do that, Virgo? Urge other people to do what's natural for you but a challenge for them? I recommend against that this week. For example: If you want to influence someone to change, be willing to change something about yourself that's hard to change.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I predict major breakthroughs in your relationship to intimacy and togetherness in 2012, Libra – if, that is, you keep in mind the following counsel from psychologist Dr. Neil Clark Warren: "Attraction and chemistry are easily mistaken for love, but they are far from the same thing. Being attracted to someone is immediate and largely subconscious. Staying deeply in love with someone happens gradually and requires conscious decisions, made over and over again." (Read more by Warren here: [tinyurl.com/WiseChoices](#).)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Purslane is a plant that's also known colloquially as pigweed. It's hearty, prolific, and spreads fast. In a short time, it can grow out of control, covering a large area with a thick carpet. On the other hand, it's a tasty salad green and has a long history of being used as a cooked vegetable. As a medicinal herb, it's also quite useful, being rich in omega-3 fatty acids as well as a number of vitamins and minerals. Moral of the story: Keep pigweed contained – don't let it grow out of control – and it will be your friend. Does anything in your life fit that description?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): As he approaches his 70th birthday, retiree and Michigan resident Michael Nicholson is still hard at work adding to his education. He's got 27 college degrees so far, including 12 master's degrees and a doctorate. Although he's not an "A" student, he loves learning for its own sake. I nominate him to be your role model for the coming week, Sagittarius. Your opportunities for absorbing new lessons will be at a peak. I hope you take full advantage of all the teachings that will be available.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The Bible addresses the subjects of money and possessions in about 2,000 verses, but devotes only 500 verses to prayer and 500 to faith. As you know, my advice in these horoscopes usually tends to have the opposite emphasis: I concentrate more on spiritual matters than materialistic concerns. But this time, in acknowledgment of the specific cosmic influences coming to bear on you, I'm going to be more like the Bible. Please proceed on the assumption that you have a mandate to think extra deeply and super creatively about money and possessions in the coming weeks. Feel free, too, to pray for financial guidance and meditate on increasing your cash flow.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](#) to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

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